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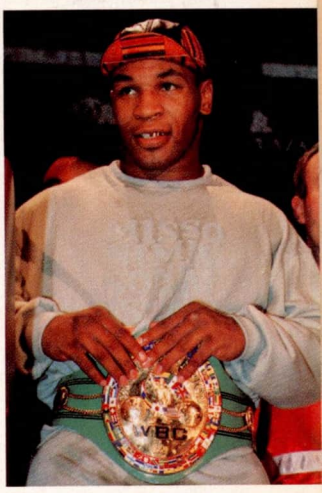
MIKE TYSON: DO YA WANNA FIGHT?



Stanley Ketchel
MIKE TYSON
SONNY LISTON
Sugar Ray Leonard
Fritzie Zivic
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Marvin Hagler
ROCKY GRAZIANO
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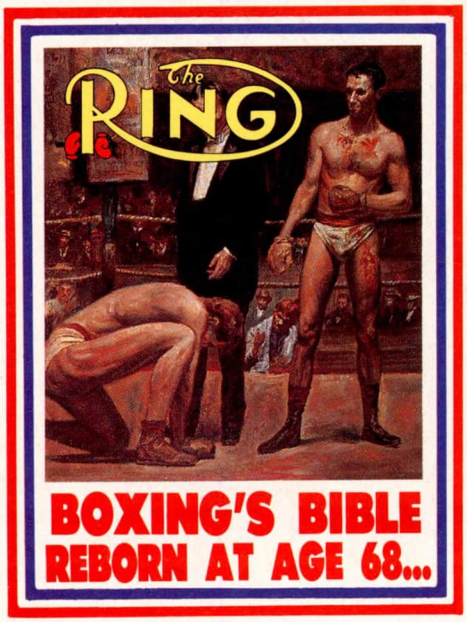

BOXING'S BIBLE REBORN AT AGE 68...

01

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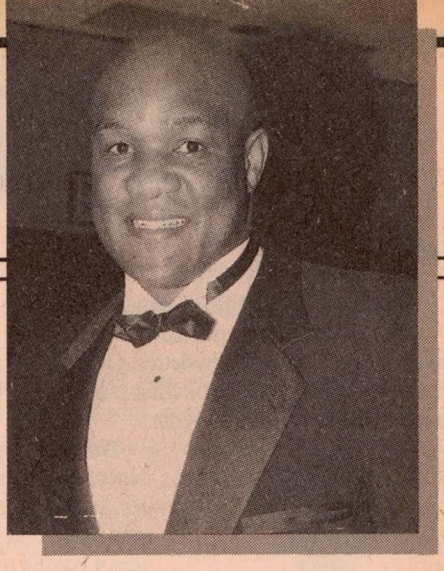

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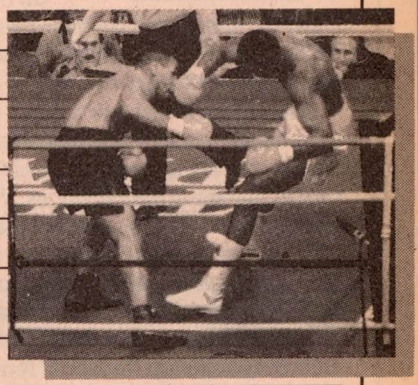

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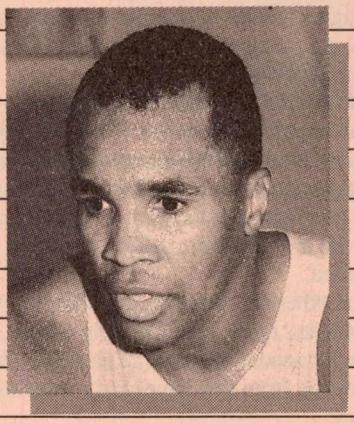

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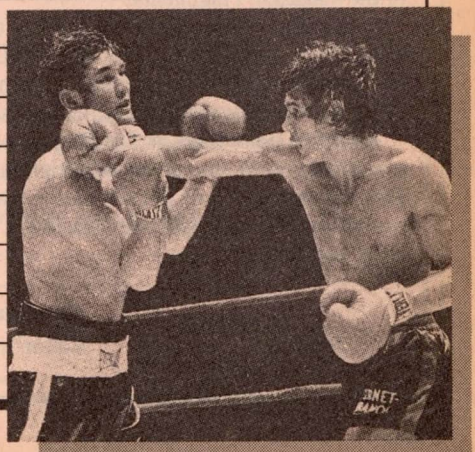

RINGSIDE

THE VERY FIRST issue of *The Ring* was dated February 15, 1922. Founder and publisher Nat Fleischer meant it to be nothing more than a New York City fight newsletter. On its cover were promoter Tex Rickard and Lord Lonsdale, creator of championships in Europe. The "magazine" was 24 pages, and it sold for 20 cents.

The Ring, the oldest sports publication in existence, has become lots more than a fight newsletter. In fact, as those familiar with *The Ring* have said again and again, it's become lots more than just a boxing magazine.

The tradition of *The Ring* is certainly not lost here. Our publisher, Stanley Weston, has his own history with *The Ring* (see story on page 24), and his staff is acutely aware of the magazine's historical significance.

The Ring is in new, but experienced, hands. We have been publishing boxing magazines for more than 30 years, and in the past decade we've built *KO* magazine into a publication that stood proudly on the newsstands next to *The Ring*. We feel it is critical to uphold and continue many of *The Ring's* traditions. At the same time, we plan to make many changes; the magazine will look better, read better, and be a better buy for your dollar.

Some changes that you'll notice in the very first issue: *The Ring* has returned to rating the top 10 of *all* of boxing's divisions. It was the belief of *The Ring's* former editor, the respected Nigel Collins, that boxing desperately needed a return to the classic eight divisions. We won't argue that point. The pressing problem, however, isn't too many divisions, but too many champions per division. If there were only one junior welterweight champion, one cruiserweight champion, one junior featherweight champion, etc., we don't think too many fans would complain about the recent proliferation of weight classes.

Our two featured columnists, Jeff Ryan and Michael Katz, are among the finest boxing writers in the world. Ryan, a Senior Writer for *KO* and its sister publications, *Boxing 90* and *World Boxing,* features a focused eye and a sharp wit. Katz, a veteran writer and columnist for the New York *Daily News,* is internationally regarded as both a reporter and boxing critic. He's a former winner of the Nat Fleischer Award for excellence in boxing journalism, presented by the Boxing Writers Association of America.

The Ring will also included several other new features, including a TV page, in which all the nationally televised fights are rated, and *The Ring Classic*, which will feature a memorable story from a previous edition of *The Ring*. *The Ring Classic* will also include the world ratings from that issue, and a brief summary of the magazine's highlights.

In this issue you'll read about some of the biggest names in boxing, including Mike Tyson, George Foreman, Roberto Duran, and Ray Leonard. Also, Argentine journalist Carlos Irusta presents a report on the trial and murder conviction of former middleweight champion Carlos Monzon.

A note to subscribers of *The Ring:* We are honoring all prior subscriptions. As a continuation of your active subscription, you will receive an issue of the new *Ring* for each issue you did not receive while *The Ring* was in limbo. We are extremely anxious to please our subscribers. If you have any complaints or suggestions, please contact us.

Steve Farhood
Editor-In-Chief

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"THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

WHEN *The Ring* was first published in 1922, Benito Mussolini had just become premier of Italy, Warren Harding was the President of the United States, Babe Ruth and Ty Cobb were the talk of the baseball world, and Jack Dempsey was heavyweight champ. In fact, there were only eight champions in all of boxing. That was a long time ago!

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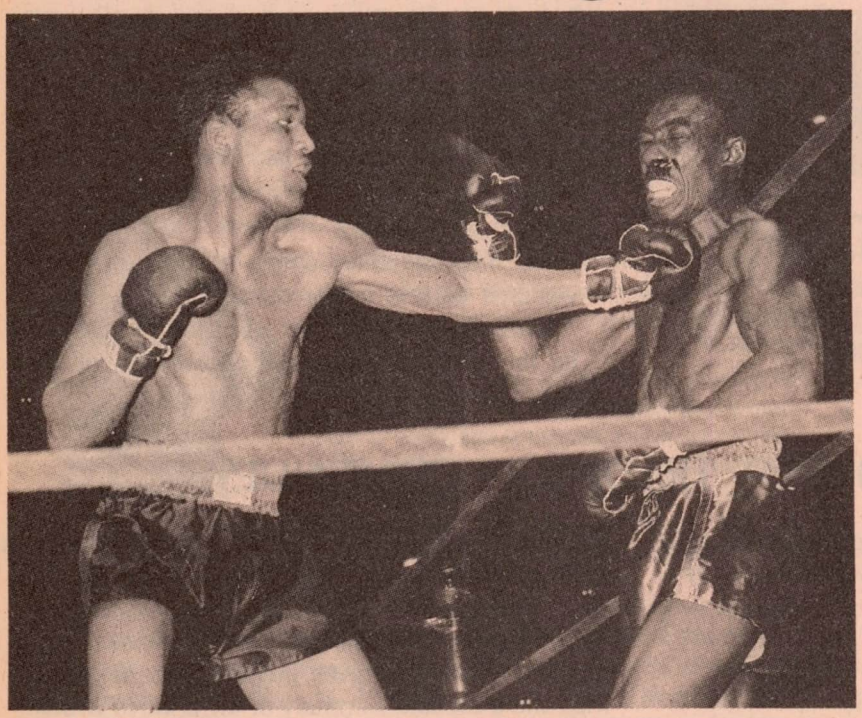


As a welterweight, Sugar Ray Robinson may have been at his sweetest. In 1946, he outpointed Tommy Bell to win the vacant world title.

The Ring welcomes comments, questions, and criticism. Send your letters to The Ring, 55 Maple Avenue, Rockville Centre, NY 11570. Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity.

WHEN SUGAR WAS SWEETEST

When CBS did a wonderful feature on Sugar Ray Robinson a couple of months back, it brought back precious memories. Robinson was the best of all-time, without a doubt, and he remains the fighter against which all others are measured. But the documentary also brought back another memory that doesn't sit well.

Robinson may have been the greatest fighter of all-time, but he earned that distinction by his efforts as a welterweight, not as a middleweight. Robinson was a great middleweight because he kept regaining the title in bouts against the likes of Randy Turpin and Carmen Basilio. But to regain the title, he had to lose it first. I'd rate Marvin Hagler, Carlos Monzon, maybe even Tony Zale ahead of Robinson at 160 pounds.

What fight did CBS feature on its broadcast? Robinson-LaMotta in the St. Valentine's Day Massacre, of course. But at welterweight, Robinson was unbeatable. Fans seem to forget that as a welterweight, his only loss came in 1943 to LaMotta, who was a full-fledged middleweight. And the level of competition Sugar Ray handled at 147 was outstanding. The fighter he topped to win the title, Tommy Bell, was excellent, and another Robinson victim, Kid Gavilan, stands comfortably with any welterweight you care to name.

Look at some of the other welters Robinson bested: Fritzie Zivic, Henry Armstrong (though, by 1943, he was well past his prime), Sammy Angott, Marty Servo, and George Costner. Fans like me, who remember Robinson as a welterweight, will never forget his fights at that weight. The middleweight version may be better remembered, but it was the welterweight Sugar Ray who was the greatest fighter in the history of the game.

COLIN DANSTAN
Providence, RI

THANKS, BUT NO THANKS

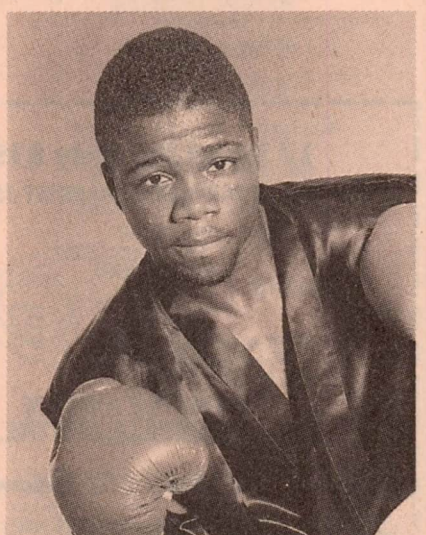
I read in the paper where George Foreman and Gerry Cooney may fight. Who cares! Foreman's been fighting dead men, and you can be sure he's going to continue to stay away from anybody who can hit him or fight back. Cooney never fights. Come to think of it, he never fought when he was fighting! His effort against Michael Spinks was a lousy one, due mostly to inactivity. Why does he think he'll be able to perform against Foreman when he hasn't fought in years?

These guys are only interested in money, not competition. There is nothing legitimate about this matchup. The bout will lose money unless boxing fans support it. I hope most of them are smart enough to say thanks, but no thanks. Keep Foreman's comeback in the circus, and tell Cooney to count his money and be grateful that he doesn't have to soak up anymore punches, the way real heavyweights do.

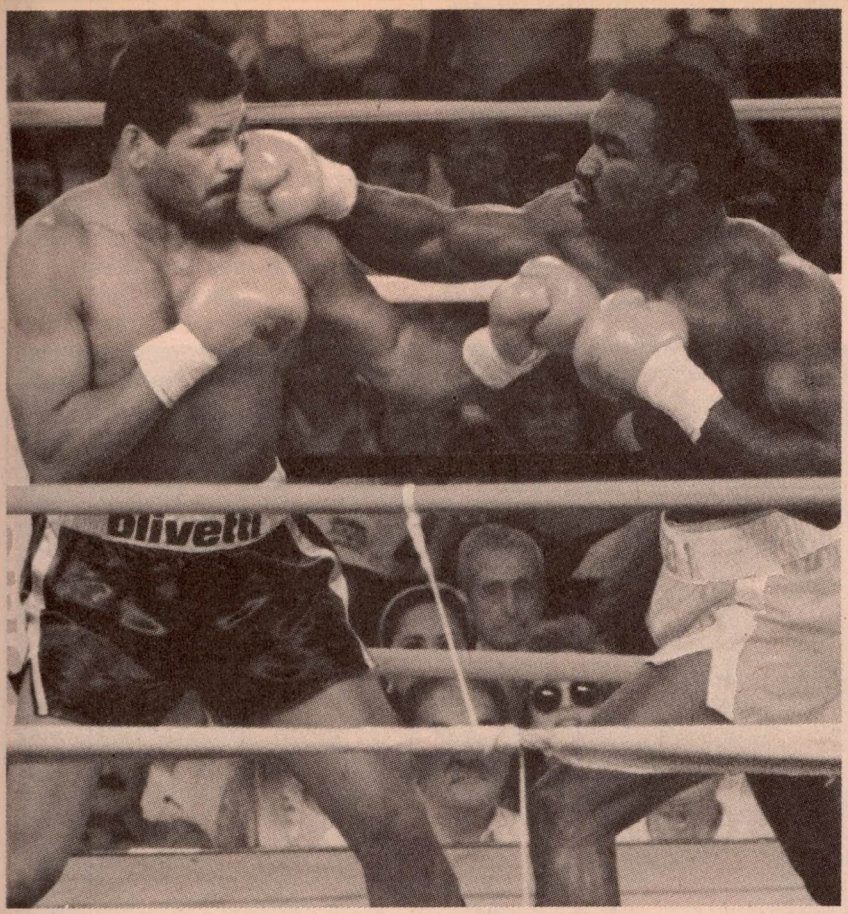
CARMEN CASTELLI
Boca Raton, FL

HIDDEN TALENT

As usual, the best talent coming out of the Olympic class doesn't belong to the Olympians. Sure, Ray Mercer and Kennedy McKinney and Michael Carbajal are prospects, but some of the fighters who didn't



Hot junior welterweight prospect Charles Murray may be the sleeper of the class of 1988.



By kayoing heavyweights like Adilson Rodriguez, Evander Holyfield deserves a shot at Mike Tyson, writes Paul Cashimere.

make the Olympic team are better than those who did. What good is Olympian Kelcie Banks as a pro? He already got knocked out. Anthony Hembrick has a long way to go, and to the best of my knowledge, flyweight Arthur Johnson never even turned pro.

But if you've seen Olympic alternate Charles Murray fight, you've seen the future of boxing. And add teenage featherweight Ed Hopson to the list. Hopson lost a controversial decision to Banks in the Trials, but has excelled as a pro. His hand speed and style will make him a contender before he turns 20.

A couple of other names to watch that I've seen on cable-TV: Brian Lonon, who was a top amateur, heavyweight assassin Tommy "Duke" Morrison, and New York's Kevin Kelly, who has all the boxing skills. In a few years, it will be the non-Olympians making the headlines, just as the non-Olympians from 1984, Mike Tyson and Michael Nunn, make them now.

ROBERT L. TYZANIAN
Frankfurt, KY

THE REAL DEAL

Every day in the newspapers I read about how Mike Tyson is going to defend first against Razor Ruddock, and then against Buster Douglas or Michael Dokes. What's going on? Ruddock is decent, but he was knocked down by Bonecrusher Smith, and he's never really looked that good. Douglas is flawed, as he showed in his loss to Tony Tucker. And Dokes is a crafty veteran, who probably does deserve one final shot.

But why aren't the writers pushing for Evander Holyfield, who kayoed Dokes and has credentials far more impressive than either Ruddock or Douglas? Besides an undefeated record and wins over quality opposition at both cruiserweight and heavyweight, Holyfield is the number one contender in all three organizations. Doesn't that mean anything?

What worries me is that if Tyson and Don King choose to shut out Holyfield, the WBA, WBC, and IBF, scared to strip as dominant a champion as Tyson, won't act on the number-one contender's behalf. With the sanctioning fees that Tyson regularly delivers, I'd like to see if any of the organizations have the nerve to adhere to their own rules and take away his title.

Let's hope it doesn't come to that.

PAUL CASHIMERE
Carson City, NV

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Remember the good old days of boxing, when worthy opponents met each other for the sake of a good challenge, making a living, and pride? I wasn't born yet when matches like Graziano-Zale, Robinson-LaMotta, and Ali-Frazier were made, but hell, it sure must have been exciting to see!

Why don't the matchmakers, promoters, and whoever else is involved get it together and forget the bullspit angles and asinine marketing campaigns and provide the public with some exciting and honest matches? I've got a great idea: When Jeff Fenech comes out of retirement, how about pairing him with the IBF featherweight champion, Jorge Paez? I betcha that would be a helluva bout for starters.

TOM PENNACCHINI
Bloomfield, NJ

SHOCKED AND DISGUSTED

I am still in shock from the decision in the Leonard-Hearns rematch. Being a devoted Marvin Hagler fan, I watched the Marvelous One lose his belt because of a judge who apparently was looking at the women in the crowd rather than the fight. But the Leonard-Hearns "draw" takes the cake. Thomas Hearns won the fight, but Sugar Ray got away with a draw. Bull! Tommy, you got the short end of the stick.

SCOTT DICKERSON
Bevery, NJ

I've never been so disgusted with a fight decision in my life. It was sad enough listening to how the judges scored the Hagler-Leonard fight. Now giving Mr. Leonard a draw agaisnt Tommy Hearns is even worse. After watching the Hagler-Leonard fight numerous times, the best I could possibly give Sugar Ray was a draw. But giving him a draw against Hearns was totally out of the question. Sorry, Ray, but you didn't beat Hagler, and you weren't even close against Hearns.

CHRISTOPHER A. DAVIS
Essex, MA

WHAT ROUND IS IT?

Why did the Julio Cesar Chavez-Roger Mayweather result appear as a 10th-round TKO? I have followed boxing for many years, and it should have been a technical knockout in the 11th round because the 10th round had ended. Please answer because I have a small wager.

CARLOS GONZALES
San Antonio, TX

[Editor's reply: The bell never rang to start the 11th round. Chavez' victory over Mayweather was properly recorded as a 10th-round TKO.] □

ROUND ONE

WALL-TO-WALL COVERAGE

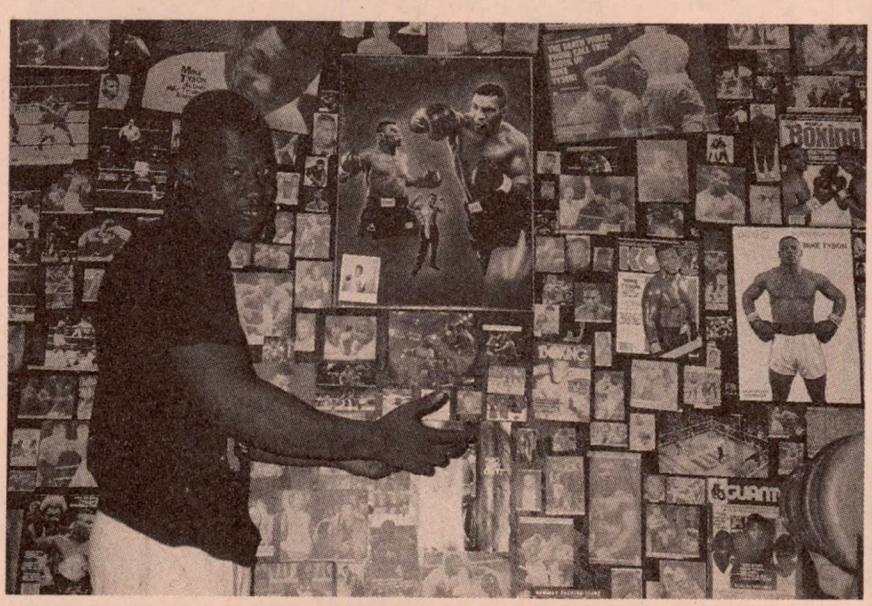
When **Kevin Dixon**, an amateur boxer from New York City, looks up, he sees **Mike Tyson**. When he looks down, he sees Mike Tyson. When he looks left or right, he sees Mike Tyson. You see, he can't help himself.

What Dixon has done is cover the walls and ceiling of his room with photos, articles, and magazine covers of his hero. There's no bare wall left for a fly in need of a rest, much less a photo of, heaven forbid, Evander Holyfield or Julio Cesar Chavez.

"You will not find one picture in my bedroom double," Dixon promises. We'll take his word for it, fearing that if we check on him, we'll end up with the kind of headache familiar to Tyson's kayo victims.

It's Dixon's fantasy that Tyson will visit one day and examine "the shrine." Heck, for this kind of worship, the heavyweight champion should spend a few days and then send Dixon a couple of ringside seats to his next title defense.

Dixon isn't finished, either. He's been working on covering his floor with photos and then laying down a piece of plexiglass over his new work so he won't damage the art. We're not so sure that's such a good idea. Mike Tyson doesn't seem to be the kind of guy who'd appreciate being stepped on.

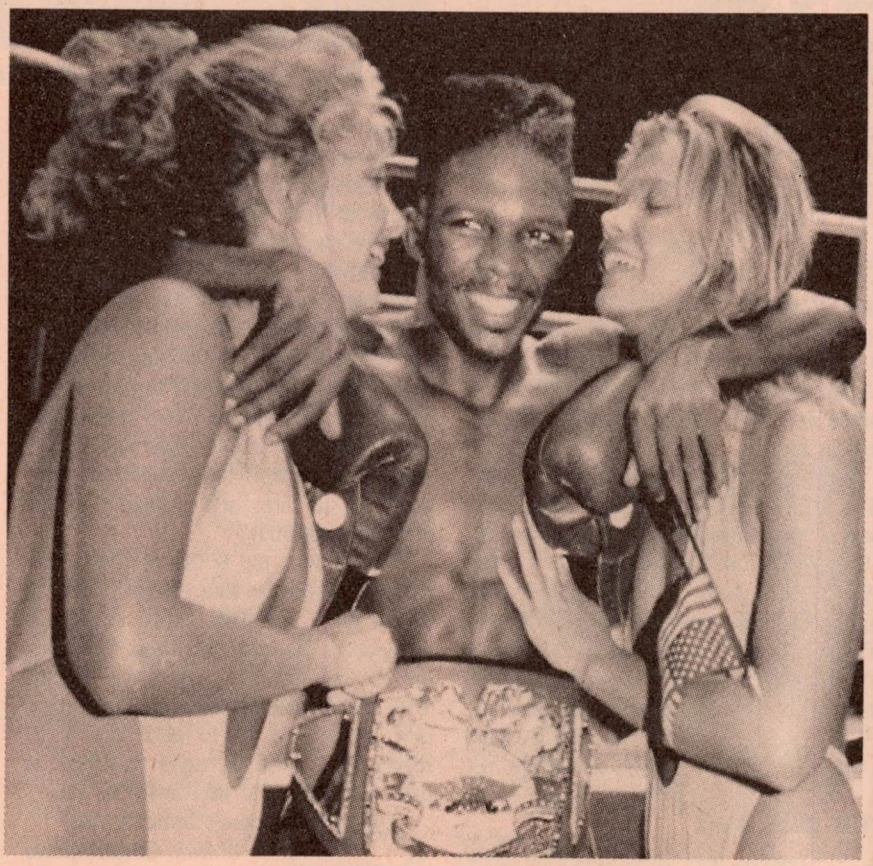


Kevin Dixon's wall: a Tyson shrine

IVAN DRAGO, PART II

In *Rocky IV,* Sylvester Stallone matched heavyweight immortal Rocky Balboa against a ravaging Russian named Ivan Drago in the biggest American-Soviet superfight since the Cuban Missile Crisis. Well, once again, life has imitated art.

At Moscow's Dynamo Arena in August, Calvin Grove won the vacant USBA junior lightweight title with a unanimous 12-round decision over Anthony English. On the undercard, three Russians, including former world amateur champion Yuri Alexandrov, won professional bouts against American



Calvin Grove accepts some Russian hospitality

competition.

"The food and things like that were not perfect, but they went overboard to treat us well," said Bob Spagnola, Grove's manager. "The place was packed, and the crowd was applauding everything. In the first bout, Tony Cisneros [who faced Alexandrov] missed with a punch and went flying into the ropes. They applauded.

"But after Grove won, he threw his robe into the crowd and there was cheering and screaming and whistling. Then Grove goes into the first row, with all the Soviet dignitaries in full military garb, with their wives sitting there, and he starts shaking everyone's hands."

"They went crazy," Grove said. "The only common denominator we had was boxing, and we communicated through it."

With professional cards in the Soviet Union and fighters from China training at Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn, boxing, always among the most international of sports, has conquered its final frontier.

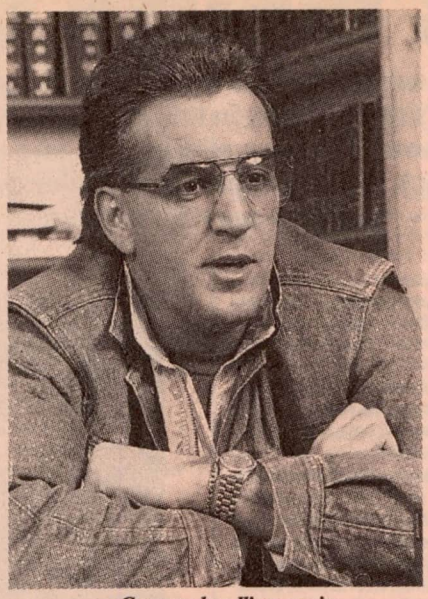
Spagnola will return to the Soviet Union with IBF bantamweight champion Orlando Canizales, who will defend his title against Italian champion Alessandro DeSantis in the Armenian town of Erevan, on October 29.

A "GIANT" HOAX?

There's a chance that heavyweight **George Foreman**, part-time heavyweight **Gerry Cooney**, and promoter **Bob Arum** are talking about a Foreman-Cooney matchup because it never hurts to get your name in the papers. After all, given Arum's penchant for stretching the truth, Foreman's knack for self-promotion, and Cooney's talent for popping up in headlines, it's quite possible that this clash of behemoths, supposedly planned for January, is nothing more than a hoax. So what are we doing about it? Writing about it, of course.

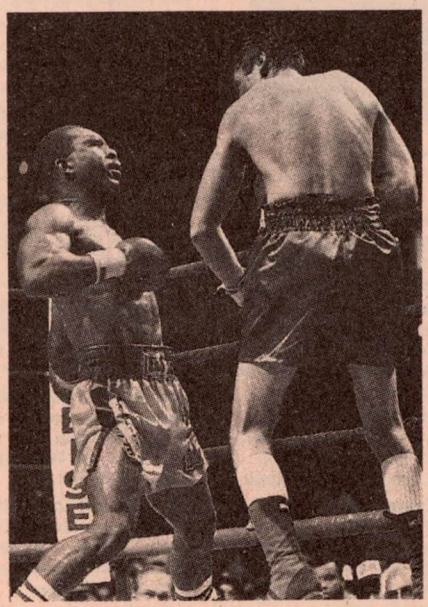
According to *USA Today,* Arum is reportedly offering Foreman $1.5-million and Cooney $2.5-million. Given those figures, Foreman-Cooney won't happen because Big George would never risk a $4-million or possibly even $5-million payday against **Mike Tyson** to pocket a smaller payday against the still potentially dangerous Cooney. As for the fighters, Foreman has been quiet, and Cooney has initially ruled out a January date but added that a meeting with Foreman would be possible later in 1990.

If we weren't so hardened and jaded, we might say that boxing gets stranger every day.



Cooney: headlines again

Arcel: happy birthday



The Garza-Warren war

RINGSIDE NEWS

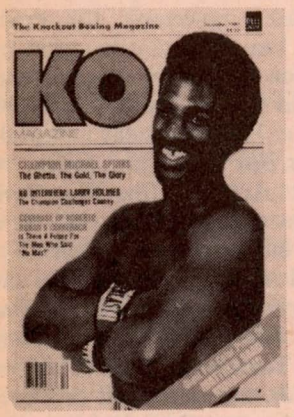
The IBF predictably rejected heavyweight **Carl "The Truth" Williams'** request to have his title fight with **Mike Tyson** ruled a no-contest. IBF President **Bob Lee** stated that he stood by the decision of referee **Randy Neumann**, who stopped the bout after 93 seconds . . . Happy birthday to legendary trainer **Ray Arcel**, who turned 90 in August. Arcel told the New York *Daily News* that "boxing today is a lost art," but he added that **Mike Tyson** would have fit in with any of the great heavyweights, including **Muhammad Ali, Joe Louis, Jack Dempsey,** and **Gene Tunney** . . . Look for **Howard Davis Jr.** to return to the ring after a short retirement. Davis had been unhappy working as a stockbroker on Wall Street . . . The career of perennial junior welterweight contender **Frankie Warren** may be over. Warren suffered a detached retina during his grueling USBA title-fight loss to **Loreto Garza** . . . Former junior welterweight champion **Aaron Pryor** was arrested by Cincinnati police in early September and charged with violating a drug paraphernalia ordinance. Police found a cocaine pipe on the seat of Pryor's car. Pryor pleaded innocent and claimed the pipe belonged to a friend who had borrowed the car . . . Negotiations between promoters **Don King** and **Dan Duva** and HBO boss **Seth Abraham** finally proved fruitful, and as a result, boxing will be treated to a junior welterweight unification battle between undefeated IBF champion **Meldrick Taylor**, 22-0-1, and undefeated WBC champion **Julio Cesar Chavez**, 62-0. The date will be either February or March. It seems like a pick-'em fight, but most observers we've polled favor Taylor. As an added bonus, the Duva-King-HBO talks netted a lightweight title fight between WBC and IBF king **Pernell Whitaker** and WBC super featherweight champion **Azumah Nelson.**

THE PUNCHLINE

Middleweight **Doug DeWitt** on his WBO title: "Before I fought for it, I was saying, 'The WBO title? This is ridiculous.' Once I got the chance to fight for it, it became the greatest thing in the world." □

BACK ISSUES OF KO

Back issues of several editions of KO magazine, the acknowledged leader in boxing journalism, are still available in limited quantity. Since its inception in 1980, KO has become known for its quality stories and columns and peak-action photographs. Plus, each issue contains a full-color centerfold. Don't delay. Supplies are running out!



DECEMBER 1981

Dec. 1981: Champion Michael Spinks: The Ghetto, The Gold, The Glory. Color Pinup: Saad Muhammad. Also: Holmes, Duran, Boxing lists.

April 1982: Holmes vs. Cooney: The 20 Crucial Questions On The Biggest Fight In History. Color Pinup: Gerry Cooney. Also: Ayala Jr., Hagler, Joe Frazier.

June 1982: Wilfred Benitez: The King Of Style Conquers Duran. Color Pinup: Saoul Mamby. Also: Braxton, Saad Muhammad.

Aug. 1982: Sugar Ray Leonard: The World's Greatest Fighter. Color Pinup: Dwight Braxton. Also: Holmes-Cooney, Pryor, Dokes, Chandler.

Sept. 1982: WBC Lightweight Champion Alexis Arguello: Head To Head With Aaron Pryor. Color Pinup: Aaron Pryor. Also: Chacon, Mancini-Frias.

Oct. 1982: Larry Holmes Turns Back The Cooney Challenge. Color Pinup: Davey Moore. Also: Arguello, Mancini, Czyz.

Nov. 1982: The Myth Of Gerry Cooney: How Much Is Left, How Much Is Gone? Color Pinup: Holmes-Cooney. Also: Hearns, Garza, Weaver-Dokes.

March 1983: Sugar Ray Leonard Retires: An Era Comes To An End. Color Pinup: Jeff Chandler. Also: Pryor-Arguello, Kenty, Curry.

April 1983: Aaron Pryor: The Rise Of The Hawk. Color Pinup: Wilfredo Gomez. Also: Czyz, Hearns-Benitez, Palomino, Snipes.

May 1983: Hector Camacho: "Ray Mancini Will Be An Easy Fight." Color Pinup: Michael Dokes. Also: Spinks-Qawi, John Tate, Year In Review.

June 1983: WBA Jr. Middleweight Champion Davey Moore: Bracing For Duran's Last Stand. Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Also: Duran-Cuevas, Hagler-Sibson, Pinklon Thomas.

July 1983: Marvelous Marvin Hagler: The Man, The Champion, The Superstar. Color Pinup: Juan LaPorte. Also: Cooney, Chacon, Curry, Duran-Moore.

Aug. 1983: Michael Spinks: King Of The Light Heavyweights . . . But The Glory Can't Erase The Sadness. Color Pinup: Johnny Bumphus. Also: Pryor-Arguello, Breland.

Sept. 1983: Alexis Arguello: One Last Chance To Cage The Hawk. Color Pinup: Wilfred Benitez. Also: O'Grady, Gomez-LaPorte, Blake.

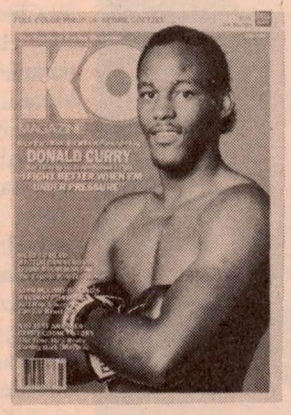
Oct. 1983: Is Larry Holmes Finished? Color Pinup: Greg Page. Also: Marvis Frazier, Hagler, Chacon, Dempsey.

Dec. 1983: Hagler-Duran: The War To Crown Boxing's Best. Color Pinup: Thomas Hearns. Also: Hamsho, Blake-Baltazar, Jerry Quarry.

Jan. 1984: Ray Mancini: "When Chacon And I Are In The Ring, We'll Be Doing War." Color Pinup: Milton McCrory. Also: Pryor-Arguello, Holmes-Frazier.

March 1984: Hagler Defeats Duran: A Marvelous Night In Las Vegas: Color Pinup: Albert Davila. Also: Moore, Arguello, White Lightning Brown.

May 1984: Sugar Ray Leonard: Head To Head With Aaron Pryor. Color Pinup: Eusebio Pedroza. Also: Rossman, Bogner, Achievement '83, Year In Review.



JULY 1984

July 1984: Donald Curry: "I Fight Better Under Pressure." Color Pinup: Gerrie Coetzee. Also: Mugabi, Cooney, Camacho-Mancini.

Aug. 1984: WBC Heavyweight Champion Terrible Tim Witherspoon: A Superstar Of Tomorrow? Color Pinup: Rocky Lockridge. Also: Sugar Ray, Hagler, Gomez-LaPorte.

Sept. 1984: It's Hawk Time Again! What Aaron Pryor's Return Means To Boxing. Color Pinup: Marvin Hagler. Also: Spinks, The Lightweights. Pintor.

Oct. 1984: Golden Boy Mark Breland: Can He Be The Next Sugar Ray? Color Pinup: Jaime Garza. Also: Bramble-Mancini, Sugar Ray, Pryor.

Nov. 1984: Thomas Hearns: "Hagler Is Shakin' Like A Leaf On A Tree!" Color Pinup: Tim Witherspoon. Also: Bramble, Rosario-Davis, Starling.

DECEMBER 1984

Dec. 1984: John "The Beast" Mugabi: Does He Have Any Weaknesses? Color Pinup: Livingstone Bramble. Also: Coetzee, Costello, Duran.

Jan. 1985: The Wide-Open Heavyweight Division: Who Will Take Control? Color Pinup: Bill Costello. Also: Arroyo, Curry-Pryor, McGuigan.

Feb. 1985: Gerry Cooney: How Far Can He Go This Time? Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Also: Mancini, Dream fights, Camacho.

March 1985: Next For Marvin Hagler: The Only Fighter That Really Matters. Color Pinup: Mike McCallum. Also: Meza-Garza, Holmes, Santos-Medal.

April 1985: How Will America's Olympians Do In The Pros? Color Pinup: Larry Holmes. Also: Hagler-Hearns, Costello, Prince Mohammed.

May 1985: Thomas Hearns: *KO* Fighter Of The Year. Color Pinup: Gerry Cooney. Also: Camacho-Ramirez, Truth Williams, Year In Review.

June 1985: "Why I'll Win" By Marvin Hagler & Thomas Hearns. Color Pinup: Hagler vs. Hearns. Also: Curry, Camacho, Mustafa Muhammad.

July 1985: Aaron Pryor: Has Hawk Time Run Out? Color Pinup: Donald Curry. Also: Mancini, Page, Shuler, Costello-Hatcher.

Aug. 1985: King Cobra: "Hagler-Hearns Is Done And I'm Better Than Both Of Them!" Color Pinup: John Mugabi. Also: Holmes, Czyz, Duran, DeWitt-Lee.

Sept. 1985: So Sweet! So Marvelous! Marvin Hagler Becomes Boxing's Number One Man. Color Pinup: Hagler vs. Hearns. Also: Holmes-Spinks, Tubbs, Chavez, Sandoval.

Oct. 1985: Still Champ After All These Years: Larry Holmes—A Legend Continues To Grow. Color Pinup: Larry Holmes. Also: Breland, Gomez, McCrory, Spinks, Hagler.

Nov. 1985: McGuigan! The Pluck Of The Irish. Color Pinup: Pinky vs. Weaver. Also: Curry, Chavez, Hagler-Mugabi.

Dec. 1985: Pinklon Thomas: "Larry Holmes Betrayed Boxing." Color Pinup: Hagler-Mugabi. Also: McCallum, Biggs, Camacho-Ramirez.

Jan. 1986: Macho Mania! Hector Camacho Takes Aim At 10 Tough Targets. Color Pinup: Jimmy Paul. Also: Truth Williams, Arguello, Curry-McCrory.

Feb. 1986: King Michael: How Long Will He Rule The Heavyweights? Color Pinup: Spinks vs. Holmes. Also: Rocky IV, McGuigan, O'Sullivan, Best Fighter Poll.

March 1986: Marvin Hagler: From Kayos To Chaos. Color Pinup: Hector Camacho. Also: Spinks, Arguello, Arroyo, Qawi.

April 1986: Undisputed Welterweight Champion Donald Curry: The Next Ray Leonard? Color Pinup: Barry McGuigan. Also: Tyson, Year In Review.

May 1986: Heavyweight Sensation Mike Tyson: A Hard-Hitting Talk With A Hard-Hitting Slugger. Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Also: Holmes, Holyfield, McCallum-Curry, Calendar.

June 1986: Heavyweight Tourney: Holmes vs. Spinks—The Best Fight Of The Series . . . Or the *Last* Fight Of The Series? Color Pinup: Julio Cesar Chavez. Also: Curry, Tyson, Paul Gonzales.

JULY 1986

July 1986: Tyson, McGuigan, Hagler: The Stars Catch Fire And Boxing Is Hot Again! Color Pinup: Azumah Nelson. Also: Camacho-Chavez.

Aug. 1986: Hagler Feasts On The Beast, But He Hungers For More. Color Pinup: Thomas Hearns. Also: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Biggs, Qawi.

Sept. 1986: Barry McGuigan Conquers America. Color Pinup: Dwight Qawi. Also: Sugar Ray, Bramble, Spinks-Cooney.

Oct. 1986: They're Back!!! The Cooney Circus Returns. Color Pinup: Gerry Cooney. Also: Sugar Ray, Tyson, Curry, Paul, Pryor-Arguello.

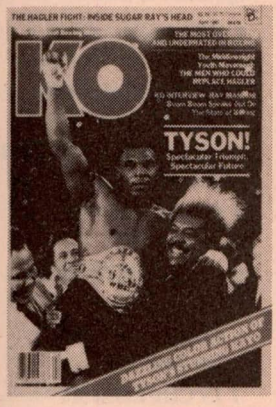
Nov. 1986: Hector Camacho's Turning Point: Getting Better . . . Or Getting Worse? Color Pinup: Mike Tyson. Also: Duran, Cruz-McGuigan, Chavez.

Dec. 1986: Larry Holmes' Message To Mike Tyson: "Show Me You Can Kick My Butt!" Color Pinup: Mark Breland. Also: Holyfield, Witherspoon, Little Red Lopez.

Jan. 1987: Sugar Ray: Can He Upset Hagler? Color Pinup: Evander Holyfield. Also: Pazienza, Whitaker, Tyson, Spinks.

Feb. 1987: Upset Of The Decade: Has Honeyghan Cut Short The Curry Era? Color Pinup: Marvin Johnson. Also: Czyz, Rosario, Camacho.

March 1987: Vinny Pazienza: The Pazmanian Devil Is Ready To Horn In On The Title. Four-Page Color Section: Year In Review. Also: KO Achievement Awards, Sugar Ray-Hagler, Rosario-Bramble.



APRIL 1987

April 1987: Tyson! Spectacular Triumph, Spectacular Future. Color Pinup: Tyson vs. Berbick. Also: Mancini, Overrated & Underrated, Marciano.

May 1987: Hagler vs. Leonard: Who Will Win And Why. Color Pinup: Edwin Rosario. Also: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Leonard-Hagler, Czyz, Haugen.

June 1987: New WBA Welterweight Champion Mark Breland: He's Got A Lot To Smile About. Color Pinup: Greg Haugen. Also: Tyson-Spinks, Sugar Ray-Hagler, Olajide.

July 1987: Mike Tyson: Two Titles Down, One To Go. Color Pinup: Bobby Czyz. Also: Honeyghan, Hearns, Olajide, Best Fighter Poll.

AUGUST 1987

Aug. 1987: Sweet Victory! Sugar Ray Humbles Hagler. Color Pinup: Sugar Ray-Hagler. Also: Spinks-Cooney, Holyfield, Curry.

Sept. 1987: Bobby Czyz: Finally, His Accomplishments Match His Appeal. Color Pinup: Sugar Ray. Also: Breland, Camacho, Honeyghan, Weekend Warriors.

Oct. 1987: Greatness Beckons: When Will Mike Tyson Answer The Call? Color Pinup: Michael Olajide. Also: Biggs, Paz-Haugen, Hagler.

Nov. 1987: Michael Spinks: The War With Tyson Is Okay With Him. Color Pinup: Vinny Pazienza. Also: Duarte, Hilton, Hagler-Czyz.

Dec. 1987: Mike Tyson: Undisputed Heavyweight King—But Is He Losing His Loyal Subjects? Color Pinup: Matthew Hilton. Also: Pryor, McCallum, McGuigan.

Jan. 1988: Starling Wins WBA Welterweight Title: Why Breland Never Hit The Mark Of Greatness. Color Pinup: Michael Spinks. Also: Nunn, The Lightweights, Pryor.

Feb. 1988: Pazienza & Haugen Go For Each Other's Throats. Color Pinup: Marlon Starling. Also: Tate-Olajide, Arum, ESPN Boxing.

March 1988: Sugar Ray Leonard: Fighter Of The Year. Color Pinup: Year In Review. Also: KO Achievement Awards, Chandler, Hearns-Roldan, Tyson-Spinks, Hagler.

April 1988: KO Interview—Michael Spinks: "Let's Settle It, Tyson!" Color Pinup: Thomas Hearns. Also: Chavez-Rosario, Holyfield-Qawi, Charles Williams, Davey Moore.

May 1988: KO Exclusive—Mike Tyson, As Only Mike Tyson Knows Him. Color Pinup: Mike McCallum. Also: Tyson-Spinks Poll, Hearns, Dokes, Virgil Hill.

June 1988: Can Mike Tyson Be The Successor To The Ali/Leonard Legacy? Color Pinup: Virgil Hill. Also: KO Interview: George Foreman, Haugen-Paz II.

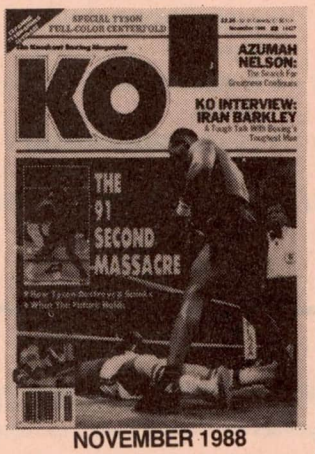
July 1988: Superfight History Dictates: Don't Expect The Expected From Tyson-Spinks Color Pinup: Roger Mayweather. Also: Roberto Duran, Azumah Nelson, Barkley-Olajide.

August 1988: Tyson-Spinks: *KO's* Fearless Forecast Of Superfight '88 Color Pinup: Buddy McGirt. Also: Lockridge-Knight, Evander Holyfield, Lloyd Honeyghan.

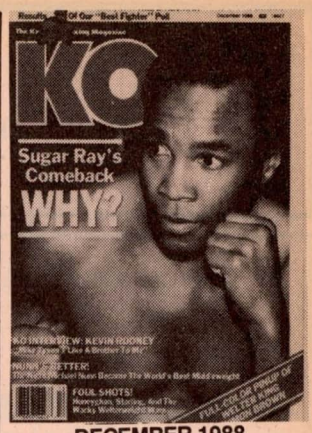
Sept. 1988: The Aftermath: What If Spinks Wins? What If Tyson Wins? Color Pinup: Frank Tate. Also: Barry McGuigan, Marlon Starling, Simon Brown.

Oct. 1988: Middleweight Terrorism: Iran Bombs The Hit Man Color Pinup: Don Lalonde. Also: Frank Bruno, Roger Mayweather, Marvin Hagler.

Nov. 1988: The 91-Second Slaughter; How Tyson Destroyed Spinks Color Pinup: Mike Tyson. Also: Azumah Nelson, Iran Barkley.



NOVEMBER 1988



DECEMBER 1988

Dec. 1988: Sugar Ray's Comeback: Why? Color Pinup: Simon Brown. Also: Michael Nunn, Lloyd Honeyghan, Marlon Starling, Kevin Rooney.

Jan. 1989: The Troubled Times Of Mike Tyson Color Pinup: Lloyd Honeyghan. Also: Meldrick Taylor, Jeff Fenech, Gil Clancy, Boxing's Champs.

Feb. 1989: George Foreman Is Born Again Color Pinup: Meldrick Taylor. Also: The Olympics, Davey Hilton, John Mugabi, Barry McGuigan.

March 1989: Older And Bolder: Ray Leonard Polishes Off The Golden Boy Color Pinup: Roberto Duran. Also: J.C. Chavez, Vinny Pazienza, Robert Hines.

April 1989: Great In '88: KO Presents The Best Of The Year Color Pinup: Camera Classics. Also: Evander Holyfield, Floyd Patterson.

May 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez Leads The Junior Welterweight Resurgence Color Pinup: Sumbu Kalambay. Also: Michael Moorer, Nigel Benn.

June 1989: Schoolboy Darrin Van Horn: Not Doing It By The Book Color Pinup: Ray Leonard. Also: Whitaker-Haugen, Alex Wallau.

July 1989: The Bruno Fight Reveals Mike Tyson Can Be Beaten! Color Pinup: Pernell Whitaker. Also: Duran, Leonard, & Hearns, Holyfield-Dokes.

Sept. 1989: "I Beat Up Tyson Before, I'll Do It Again," by Carl Williams Color Pinup: Michael Nunn. Also: Chavez-Mayweather, Brian Mitchell, Marv Albert.

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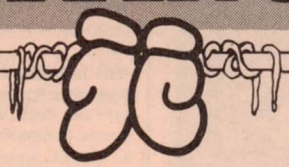


HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1 MIKE TYSON
Catskill, NY *(World Champ)*

2 EVANDER HOLYFIELD
Atlanta, GA

3 ORLIN NORRIS
Campo, CA

4 TIM WITHERSPOON
Philadelphia, PA

5 MICHAEL DOKES
Las Vegas, NV

6 FRANCESCO DAMIANI
Italy

7 BUSTER DOUGLAS
Columbus, OH

8 CARL WILLIAMS
White Plains, NY

9 RAZOR RUDDOCK
Canada

10 FRANK BRUNO
England

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 195 pounds

1 CARLOS DeLEON
Puerto Rico *(WBC Champ)*

2 TAOUFIK BALBOULI
France

3 DWIGHT MUHAMMAD QAWI
Cherry Hill, NJ

4 GLENN McCRORY
England *(IBF Champ)*

5 NATE MILLER
Philadelphia, PA

6 PATRICK LUMUMBA
Kenya

7 SAMMY REESON
England

8 ROBERT DANIELS
Miami, FL

9 CRAIG BODZIANOWSKI
Chicago, IL

10 ANACLET WAMBA
France

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1 VIRGIL HILL
Las Vegas, NV *(WBA Champ)*

2 PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS
Broomall, PA *(IBF Champ)*

3 MICHAEL MOORER
Detroit, MI

4 JEFF HARDING
Australia *(WBC Champ)*

5 FRANKIE SWINDELL
Houston, TX

6 DENNIS ANDRIES
Detroit, MI

7 TONY WILLIS
Chicago, IL

8 LESLIE STEWART
Trinidad & Tobago

9 JOE LASISI
Las Vegas, NV

10 MIKE SEDILLO
Chino, CA

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limited: 168 pounds

1 RAY LEONARD
Potomac, MD *(WBC Champ)*

2 THOMAS HEARNS
Las Vegas, NV

3 GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI
West Germany *(IBF Champ)*

4 FRANK TATE
Houston, TX

5 CHRISTOPHE TIOZZO
France

6 JAMES KINCHEN
San Diego, CA

7 IN CHUL BAEK
South Korea *(WBA Champ)*

8 TONY BYRD
Los Angeles, CA

9 TARMO UUSIVIRTA
Finland

10 FULGENCIO OBELMEJIAS
Venezuela

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 135 pounds

1 PERNELL WHITAKER
Norfolk, VA *(IBF & WBC Champ)*

2 EDWIN ROSARIO
Puerto Rico *(WBA Champ)*

3 GREG HAUGEN
Henderson, NV

4 JOSE LUIS RAMIREZ
Mexico

5 FREDDIE PENDLETON
Miami, FL

6 JOHN DUPLESSIS
New Orleans, LA

7 TRACY SPANN
Plainfield, NJ

8 DAVID GONZALES
San Jose, CA

9 LOUIE LOMELI
Melrose Park, IL

10 CHIL SUNG CHUN
South Korea

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 130 pounds

1 AZUMAH NELSON
Ghana *(WBC Champ)*

2 TONY LOPEZ
Sacramento, CA *(IBF Champ)*

3 BRIAN MITCHELL
South Africa *(WBA Champ)*

4 JOHN-JOHN MOLINA
Puerto Rico

5 LUPE SUAREZ
Corpus Christi, TX

6 MARIO MARTINEZ
Mexico

7 GENARO HERNANDEZ
Los Angeles, CA

8 CALVIN GROVE
Pottstown, PA

9 JUAN LaPORTE
New York, NY

10 ROCKY LOCKRIDGE
Mount Laurel, NJ

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 126 pounds

1 ANTONIO ESPARRAGOZA
Venezuela *(WBA Champ)*

2 JEFF FENECH
Australia *(WBC Champ)*

3 JORGE PAEZ
Mexico *(IBF Champ)*

4 MAURIZIO STECCA
Italy

5 MARCOS VILLASANA
Mexico

6 GEORGIE NAVARRO
Vineland, NJ

7 LUPE GUTIERREZ
San Jose, CA

8 LOUIE ESPINOZA
Phoenix, AZ

9 TROY DORSEY
Dallas, TX

10 RICARDO CEPEDA
Bronx, NY

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 122 pounds

1 DANIEL ZARAGOZA
Mexico *(WBC Champ)*

2 JUAN JOSE ESTRADA
Mexico *(WBA Champ)*

3 SEUNG HOON LEE
South Korea

4 FABRICE BENICHOU
France *(IBF Champ)*

5 KENNY MITCHELL
Houston, TX

6 PEDRO DECIMA
Argentina

7 PAUL BANKE
Quail Valley, CA

8 JOSE SANABRIA
Venezuela

9 MIGUEL LORA
Colombia

10 JESUS SALUD
San Diego, CA

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

- In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.
- Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.
- These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

For Period Ended September 12, 1989

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Weight limit: 160 pounds

1 MICHAEL NUNN
Los Angeles, CA *(IBF Champ)*

2 ROBERTO DURAN
Miami, FL *(WBC Champ)*

3 SUMBU KALAMBAY
Italy

4 MIKE McCALLUM
Brooklyn, NY *(WBA Champ)*

5 IRAN BARKLEY
Bronx, NY

6 MICHAEL WATSON
England

7 HEROL GRAHAM
England

8 MICHAEL OLAJIDE
New York, NY

9 RONNIE ESSETT
Indianapolis, IN

10 KARAMA LEOTA
Napa, CA

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Weight limit: 154 pounds

1 JULIAN JACKSON
Virgin Islands *(WBA Champ)*

2 JOHN MUGABI
Tampa, FL *(WBC Champ)*

3 GIANFRANCO ROSI
Italy *(IBF Champ)*

4 DARRIN VAN HORN
Lexington, KY

5 JOHN DAVID JACKSON
Detroit, MI

6 TERRY NORRIS
Campo, CA

7 ROBERT HINES
Philadelphia, PA

8 RENE JACQUOT
France

9 DONALD CURRY
Fort Worth, TX

10 LUPE AQUINO
Santa Paula, CA

WELTERWEIGHTS

Weight limit: 147 pounds

1 MARLON STARLING
South Windsor, CT *(WBC Champ)*

2 SIMON BROWN
Washington, D.C. *(IBF Champ)*

3 LLOYD HONEYGHAN
England

4 MARK BRELAND
Brooklyn, NY *(WBA Champ)*

5 TYRONE TRICE
Detroit, MI

6 MAURICE BLOCKER
Washington, D.C.

7 BUDDY McGIRT
Brentwood, NY

8 FUJIO OZAKI
Japan

9 DERRICK ROLON
Jersey City, NJ

10 AARON DAVIS
Bronx, NY

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS

Weight limit: 140 pounds

1 JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ
Mexico *(WBC Champ)*

2 MELDRICK TAYLOR
Philadelphia, PA *(IBF Champ)*

3 JUAN COGGI
Argentina *(WBA Champ)*

4 ROGER MAYWEATHER
Las Vegas, NV

5 SAMMY FUENTES
Puerto Rico

6 RAS-I BRAMBLE
Hampton Township, NJ

7 LORETO GARZA
Sacramento, CA

8 HECTOR CAMACHO
Big Cypress, FL

9 FRANKIE RANDALL
Morristown, TN

10 VINNY PAZIENZA
Cranston, RI

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Weight limit: 118 pounds

1 RAUL PEREZ
Mexico *(WBC Champ)*

2 ORLANDO CANIZALES
Laredo, TX *(IBF Champ)*

3 KAOKOR GALAXY
Thailand *(WBA Champ)*

4 GERARDO MARTINEZ
San Jose, CA

5 ISRAEL CONTRERAS
Venezuela

6 MOON SUNG KIL
South Korea

7 KELVIN SEABROOKS
Charlotte, NC

8 FERNIE MORALES
Mexico

9 HURLEY SNEAD
Detroit, MI

10 WILFREDO VASQUEZ
Puerto Rico

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS

Weight limit: 115 pounds

1 GILBERTO ROMAN
Mexico *(WBC Champ)*

2 KHAOSAI GALAXY
Thailand *(WBA Champ)*

3 ELLY PICAL
Indonesia *(IBF Champ)*

4 SANTOS LACIAR
Argentina

5 ROLANDO BOHOL
Philippines

6 THANOMSAK SITHBAOBEY
Thailand

7 COBRA ARI BLANCA
Philippines

8 SHUNICHI NAKAJIMA
Japan

9 ADRIAN ROMAN
Argentina

10 JUAN CARAZO
Puerto Rico

FLYWEIGHTS

Weight limit: 112 pounds

1 SOT CHITALADA
Thailand *(WBC Champ)*

2 FIDEL BASSA
Colombia *(WBA Champ)*

3 JUNG KOO CHANG
South Korea

4 DAVE McAULEY
Ireland *(IBF Champ)*

5 YONG KANG KIM
South Korea

6 DUKE McKENZIE
England

7 RAMON MEDEL
San Antonio, TX

8 JOSE RUIZ
Puerto Rico

9 HO CHOI CHANG
South Korea

10 DODIE PENALOSA
Philippines

POUND FOR POUND

Boxing's 10 Best Fighters, Pound For Pound

1 MIKE TYSON
Heavyweight

2 JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ
Junior Welterweight

3 PERNELL WHITAKER
Lightweight

4 MICHAEL NUNN
Middleweight

5 ANTONIO ESPARRAGOZA
Featherweight

6 AZUMAH NELSON
Junior Lightweight

7 MELDRICK TAYLOR
Junior Welterweight

8 RAUL PEREZ
Bantamweight

9 EVANDER HOLYFIELD
Heavyweight

10 GILBERTO ROMAN
Junior Bantamweight

BITING LIPS AND TONGUES

By Michael Katz

THE CHAMP IS TALKING. "When I get mad," Mike Tyson is telling Jose Torres, "I'm not saying I'm going to take on the world, it's just I don't care. I have to do everything. I have to inflict the most pain possible. I have to make sure you feel pain."

These are part of the outtakes, the tapes Torres didn't use in his book, *Fire and Fear*. I am wondering why now.

"That's the way I am. I feel so good when you're in pain. I'm always thinking about taking an ice pick and sticking it in somebody's ear or stabbing somebody in the eye, just biting them and ripping their lips off."

The thin, high voice is getting excited. It whirrs on. "I don't have to hate them, just somebody I don't like. When I get in a streetfight, I don't think about knocking the guy down. I just want to hurt somebody."

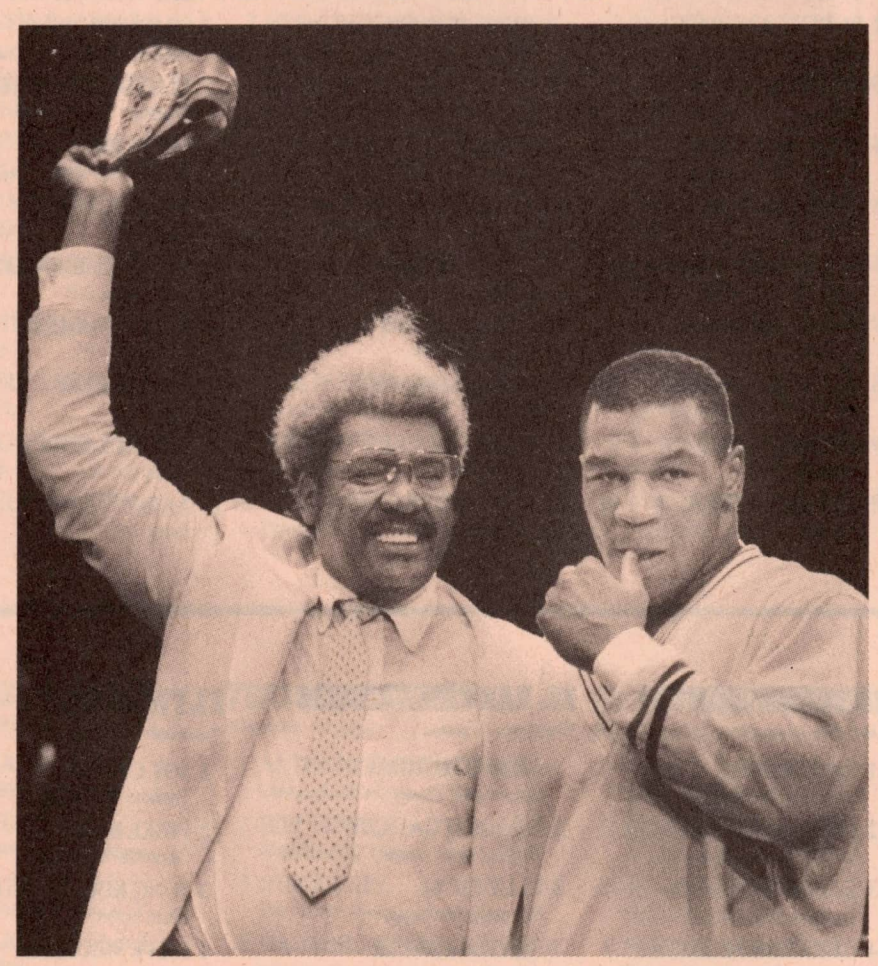
"I see," says Torres.

"I don't like to sound barbaric. It's just that I'm so afraid."

Torres interrupts. The tape moves on. Did Tyson ever shoot somebody? A moment of revelation has been lost. It may be why Torres' book was so disappointing. Tyson afraid, Tyson becomes animal. The cornered rat, the wounded tiger, the frightened fighter.

Suddenly, the ice pick in the ear did not seem so appalling. Maybe I missed it in *Fire and Fear*. Maybe Torres missed it on his tapes. I didn't hear it the first few times, either. Oh, I heard it, but I didn't listen. Tyson afraid, turning his fear into the very antisocial behavior that makes him so great in the ring, so unpopular outside.

We can go on from here. I may not admire Tyson, I do not regret our parting of the ways, though I might miss our long talks about Panama Al Brown and Benny Leonard and Tony Ayala Jr. But the civilizing process that Cus D'Amato and Jimmy Jacobs started and which I thought was lost forever, is still possible. Maybe he's just around the wrong people. First Robin and Ruth, now Don King.



Don King is always smiling. But over the years it's been harder to read the thoughts of heavyweight champion Mike Tyson. The more King is criticized, the more Tyson becomes his ally.

I had rooted for Tyson, not so much in the ring, where he does not need my help, as in the outside world. The young fighter who had wanted to "drive [his opponent's] nose back into the brain," was, without losing any ferocity in combat, scraping off the years of juvenile delinquency, molding himself into a caring person.

He called me once, sheepishly asking if he had "made a mistake" in supporting Tawana Brawley.

All precincts had not reported as yet, but doubts were growing over the young girl's story of having been raped and beaten by white men, had "KKK" scrawled on her body with feces, and

Tyson and then-wife Robin Givens being interviewed by ABC's Barbara Walters.

left in a plastic garbage bag. Tyson wanted to know what I thought.

"She may be a sick puppy," I told him. "But what you did [giving her the Rolex off his wrist, starting a fund for her support with a $50,000 check] cannot be wrong. You saw someone in trouble and you went to help. I don't know. Maybe she is telling the truth. It's not that hard to believe in this society."

He seemed relieved.

But then he started disintegrating. Robin and Ruth turned him against his friends. Bill Cayton was the target, but the first victims were Steve Lott and Kevin Rooney. Tyson was losing the sympathy vote. He was acting like a rat.

But he was a frightened rat. There was no way he could handle a relationship with sophisticated witches, and his life was turned into a miserable tabloid tableau. Boxing writers became gossip columnists. It was a time of great ugliness.

The women were supported by those who wanted to get close to Tyson, to suck his wealth. Don King and Donald Trump defended Robin and Ruth. And then, when it became intolerable, when the women overplayed their hand on Barbara Wa-Wa, they bolted. Tyson, still frightened, remained a rat. He went with King.

King was everything the young juvenile delinquent admired, the same way the pimps and the pushers with the flashy women and flashy cars become role models for too many of our youth. King was the streetsmart con man who worked his way out of the ghetto. He did hard time, and was a man Tyson could look up to.

And that's where Tyson is today. More than disliking him, we should pity him. He said once of King that it didn't matter if you kept a snake in the room as long as you kept the lights on. Torres has other tapes wherein Tyson says worse things about the promoter. But it does no good for Tyson to keep the lights on while he keeps his eyes closed.

As much as King may be manipulating the champion, Tyson is probably manipulating King as well. I have heard reports how he brags to friends how much he has the promoter's hair under control: "Look at what I can make him do," and then makes some outrageous demand that King meets.

But he has cloaked himself in King's hatreds and prejudices. We ran into each other recently and somehow the talk was about music. I started talking about Billie Holiday and Lester Young and Tyson looked at me in surprise.

"I never figured you for jazz," he said. "I thought you'd like country music."

All whites are rednecks, right?

The more you knock King, the closer Tyson becomes to the promoter. It is all part of the racist conspiracy to criticize King, the hypocrite who once made $750,000 on a fight in South Africa after denouncing that country's apartheid policy and swearing to never promote a bout there, the poison-minded promoter who sold Holmes-Cooney with blatant black-white overtones. Ultimately, a man must be judged by his friends.

So Tyson is a bully and he is arrogant and an ingrate. So was Beethoven, who may have been the greatest genius in Western civilization. We do not judge Beethoven on his personality weaknesses. We judge him by his symphonies and his quartets.

And bottom line, this is how we should judge Tyson: by his artistry and excitement in the ring. His penchant for brutality may repulse us, though, in a sense, that is one of the traits that attract us to this man. For he raises his brutality to the realm of art.

As long as Tyson does not mug and rape and kill outside the ring, as long as he lives by the laws of the land, then I propose that we not forgive but forget his character.

We do not worry about our pop culture stars and what kind of personal lives they may lead. Does it matter who sleeps with whom in the theater as long as the actors produce art? Does it matter that Tyson often speaks with the mistaken bravura of the streets as long as he can set Carl Williams up for the left hook and deliver it with stunning accuracy?

For too long, we have, as a society, tried to translate athletic or artistic prowess into the stuff of which our children should emulate. Yes, let the kids work as hard as Tyson has in order to achieve their dreams of greatness. But teach them that one kind of greatness does not mean another.

Poor Tyson. We can only guess at what kind of pressures must be on a man whose every appearance in public attracts a microscope. He has suffered more than most of our celebrities, for his fish bowl is the largest. Three books on him this year and he is only 23. A marriage made in Hollywood and destroyed there.

As he bites off the lips of his enemies, let us try to bite our tongues. Torres tried. In the most sympathetic of the three books, Tyson's former confidant attempted to unlock the dark side that helped form the fighter and the man. He was no traitor, as Tyson accused, nor was he cashing in on his special relationship. (If he had wanted to, he could have given in to Robin and Ruth and gotten a piece of Tyson; if he had wanted to, he could have given in to King and become the champion's trainer.) What Torres was trying to do was portray a monster who was growing into a man. He wanted to show how the fear in every fighter is inverted, how conquering it makes champions. It is a lesson that was taught to him by Cus D'Amato, who taught it to Tyson. It is a lesson we all can learn.

Tyson's is not a pleasant personality. There is a glowering anger to the man. Muhammad Ali may have been more threatening to white middle-class culture, with his Black Muslim religion and then his opposition to the war in Vietnam. Tyson waves no banners for anyone but himself and King. Though he may never become the great humanist that Ali turned out to be, he still may be ashamed to admit that there is a streak of decency even in a man who talks of stabbing out eyes and biting off lips.

And if the streak does not widen as he matures, so be it. Let us at least enjoy his talent. There may be another "Ode To Joy" inside him.

Michael Katz is a boxing writer and columnist for the New York Daily News.

RYAN

OUT LOUD

THE FAME GAME

By Jeff Ryan

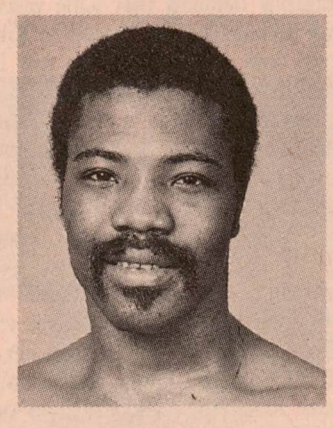
HALLS OF FAME have been in the news an awful lot this year. Will Pete Rose's gambling scandal keep him out of Cooperstown? Was Terry Bradshaw's acceptance speech at the Pro Football Hall of Fame longer than the halftime show at the last Super Bowl? In these days of shrines and Roses, halls of fame are in vogue. So, naturally, I started doing a little thinking about the boxing hall of fame.

Despite all of the sweet science's lulls and star-starved periods, it has produced some certain hall of famers in the '80s. Could Larry Holmes, Sugar Ray Leonard, Michael Spinks, Marvin Hagler, Thomas Hearns, Roberto Duran, Alexis Arguello, Salvador Sanchez, Eusebio Pedroza, and Jung Koo Chang ever be denied entry? Would you tell Elle MacPherson that she can't come in and use your phone?

Of course, voting on the clear-cut greats doesn't require much of a mental workout. *Everyone* knows that the aforementioned fighters are going to be watching their busts develop in the next few years. The real challenge is determining which of the borderline cases deserve permanent recognition for their achievements, and which do not.

Below are eight examples of guys who did their best work in the '80s, and one writer's opinion as to which of them are legitimate hall of famers. My decisions are based on no checklist of criteria; every fighter is evaluated on his individual accomplishments and contributions to the game. I would have liked to judge the candidates on their character as well, but with all due respect to sweet scientists the world over, if personal integrity were a criterion for acceptance, the boxing hall of fame would be as empty as Coney Island in December.

Without any further delay, let's play the fame game:



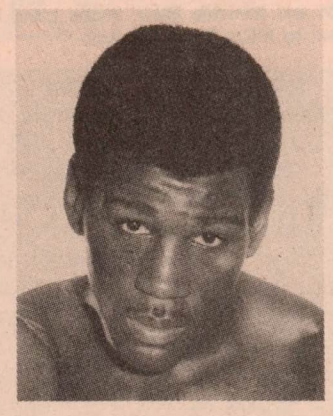
AARON PRYOR: "The Hawk" flew high and fast through the junior welterweight ranks, then crashed and burned in a drug-induced stupor. But I prefer to reward greatness displayed over a short period of time rather than *goodness* displayed over the long haul. After all, what's more impressive, Sandy Koufax being unhittable for six years or Phil Niekro stretching 318 wins over 24 years?

Pryor was one of boxing's most dominant champions from 1980 to 1985, *twice* kayoing certain hall of famer Alexis Arguello. He brought attention to a division virtually unknown to mainstream fans, and, in his first real test, massacred Colombian legend Antonio Cervantes to win the WBA title. Though Cervantes was 34 at the time, he had only been stopped once in 73 previous bouts.

Verdict: Throw open the doors!

MATTHEW SAAD MUHAMMAD: Like Catfish Hunter in his Octobers and Terry Bradshaw in his Super Bowls, light heavyweight king Saad always found a way to win, even though he usually had to peer through his blood to do it.

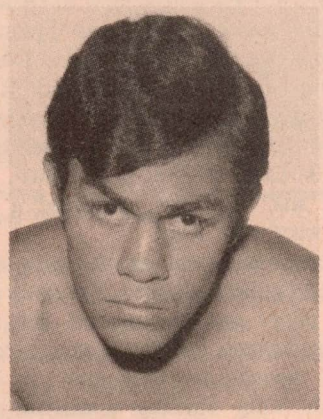
Halls of fame are for those who did the extraordinary, even the impossible. If you sat, mouth agape, watching his come-from-behind thrillers over Marvin



Johnson (twice), Yaqui Lopez (twice), John Conteh, and Jerry Martin, you know that Saad turned nearly every TV fight into a remake of *The Miracle Worker*. In a decade when the tube played a bigger role in boxing than ever before, Saad established himself as the most entertaining TV warrior in history.

Verdict: One hall of a fighter.

PIPINO CUEVAS: The Mexican may have made 11 defenses of the WBA welterweight crown (from 1976 to 1980), but mention his name and

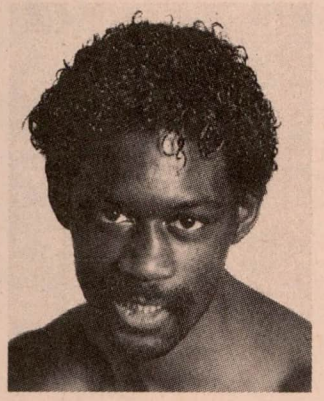


the image everyone has is of a man swaying in place and then crashing at the feet of Hearns. Cuevas also lost the second-biggest fight of his career, by kayo to Duran. Like all pulverizing

punchers, a fun fighter to watch. But the biggest wins came against guys named Espada, Weston, and Backus, not Leonard, Benitez, or Hearns.

Verdict: Let him in, but only if he pays admission.

JEFF CHANDLER: Joltin' Jeff is the Joe Namath of this list. There were others with better numbers, but Chandler's impact on his sport at the peak of his career was significant. When he captured the WBA crown from Julian



Solis in 1980, Chandler became the first American-born bantamweight king in 30 years. In the 3½ years that he reigned, he redefined the texture of the division, sparking TV's interest in a weight class long considered anathema by the network bigwigs. In turn, he routinely earned $200,000 purses, paydays previously unheard of for a 118-pounder.

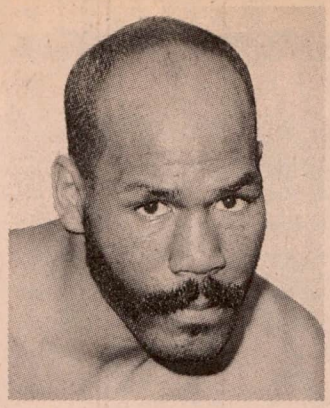
And how's this for an impressive statistic: In an age where champions defend their titles less and less, Chandler made *nine* successful title defenses in two years and 11 months.

Verdict: Show him in, and give those knee-length Philly-fighter trunks a display case all their own.

MARVIN JOHNSON: At first glance, it's hard to deny a place in the hall to history's first *three-time* light heavyweight titlist. But don't forget, while one of those title belts was snatched from the waist of the great Victor Galindez, the other two were won against Mate Parlov and Leslie Stewart. Hardly two legends.

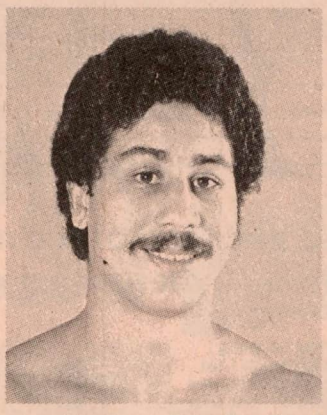
A ferocious puncher with incredible courage, Johnson didn't spend a total of 10 seconds taking a breather in 14 years of combat. But when he fought the very best, "Pops" faltered. Kayo losses to Saad (twice), Spinks, and Eddie Mustafa Muhammad proved that he's clearly a level below history's best 175-pounders.

Verdict: A man who deserves a



place in our hearts, but not on the wall alongside Archie Moore, Bob Foster, and Spinks.

WILFREDO GOMEZ: A triple-crown titlist, but one whose biggest wins were tainted. As WBC super bantamweight king, "Bazooka" gunned down Lupe Pintor in a heart-stopping war, but Pintor was a bantam rising in weight. Gomez captured the WBC featherweight crown from hot-and-cold Juan LaPorte in 1984, but three years earlier was kayoed attempting to win

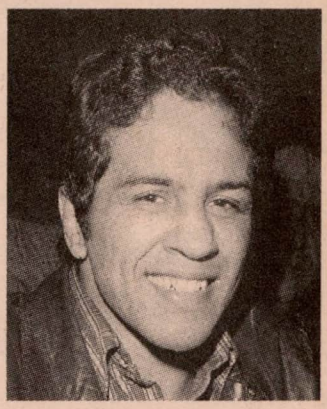


the same title from Salvador Sanchez. And when he topped Rocky Lockridge for the WBA junior lightweight crown, Gomez was the beneficiary of one of the worst decisions of the '80s. The best 122-pounder ever, but considering the competition, that's not enough.

Verdict: Don't answer the door when he knocks.

BOBBY CHACON: If a fighter's character were taken into consideration, wife-beater Chacon wouldn't be allowed through the gates of the parking lot, let alone inside the hall. Judging him strictly in the ring, it's still a tough decision. To his credit, he effectively switched styles to prolong his career, making the transition from master boxer to powerhitting brawler, and becoming one of the decade's premier Saturday matinee stars.

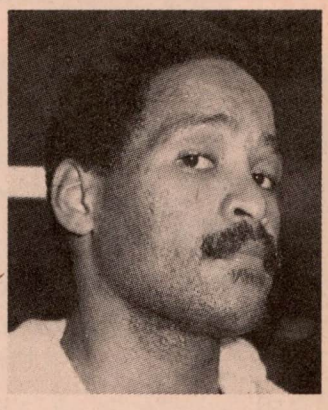
The highlights: world titles at featherweight and junior lightweight, a knockout of then-unbeaten future great Danny "Little Red" Lopez in 1974, and an electrifying late-rounds rally that earned him the WBC 130-pound



crown from Bazooka Limon. The negatives: kayo losses to Arguello, Ruben Olivares (twice), and Cornelius Boza-Edwards, and a just-happy-to-be-here effort against Ray Mancini. I'll never forget the courage Chacon displayed in his bloody second war with Boza, but I'll also never forget that, despite the decision he was given, he really lost the fight.

Verdict: No admittance.

WILFRED BENITEZ: The toughest call of anyone on the list. It can be argued that a guy who lost his biggest fights in three divisions (to Leonard at welterweight, Hearns at junior middleweight, and Mustafa Hamsho at middleweight) has no business being in the



hall. But I'm voting Benitez in on the basis of his best efforts, not his worst. A master counterpuncher, Benitez, like hall of famer Willie Pep, elevated defense to an art form. And his resume shows that he completely outslicked the very tough Carlos Palomino, toyed with a still-tough Roberto Duran, and, most remarkable of all, at the age of *17,* upset the great Cervantes.

Verdict: Start engraving the plaque. □

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N E W

FACES

TRACY SPANN

PROFESSIONAL RECORD

Born: April 7, 1963

1984

Oct. 23	Terry Coney, Atlantic City	KO 1
Nov. 20	Larry Watson, Atlantic City	KO 1

1985

Jan. 8	Chris Bowen, Atlantic City	W 4
Feb. 13	Mike Brown, Atlantic City	W 4
April 2	Richard Laster, Atlantic City	KO 2
May 21	Frank Mackey, Atlantic City	KO 1
June 18	Leo Lopez, Atlantic City	KO 2
July 24	Speedy Gonzalez, Washington, DC	W 8
Sept. 14	Darryl Richardson, Orange, NJ	KO 2

1986

March 11	Kevin Austin, Atlantic City	KO 5
July 23	Bobby Van, Atlantic City	KO 3

1987

Feb. 21	Anthony Andrews, Atlantic City	W 6
March 31	Nick Parker, Erie, PA	W 8
Oct. 27	Frank Navas, Staten Island, NY	KO 4

1988

April 30	Felipe Julio, Staten Island	KO 2
June 17	Raul Zalazar, Secaucus, NJ	KO 1
July 16	Erroll West, Kingston, Jamaica	KO 3
Oct. 15	David Taylor, Lausanne, Switzerland	KO 7
Dec. 15	Sebastian Wilburn, Rochester, NY	KO 6

1989

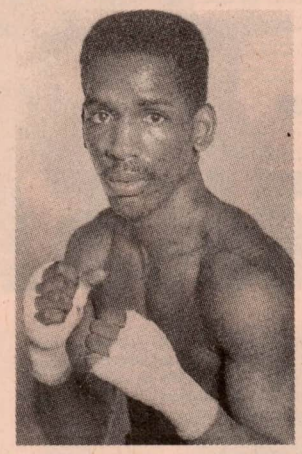
Jan. 26	Roger Brown, Rochester	KO 2
April 11	Miguel Santana, Philadelphia	KO 2
July 11	Elvis Perez, Atlantic City	KO 4

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
	22	22	0	0	17

By Steven Farhood

"In the fight game," says Ben Cognetta, the co-manager of undefeated contender Tracy Spann, "they call Tracy 'the lightweight Marvin Hagler.' "

Sounds pretty good if you consider Hagler's talent and his success as a middleweight champion. But those familiar with Spann's career know that the comparison has a different meaning. In the late '70s, it was said that Hagler, frustrated by his inability to secure a title shot, faced three handicaps: He was black, he was a southpaw, and he was good. Spann is a black southpaw who's already good enough to be rated fourth by the IBF and seventh by *The Ring*. He also faces a fourth handicap: He punches hard enough to scare away potential foes. In fact, it may be inaccurate to continue classifying Edwin Rosario as the heaviest hitter in the lightweight class.



"Tracy's got the best equalizer in the division right now," said Top Rank matchmaker Ron Katz.

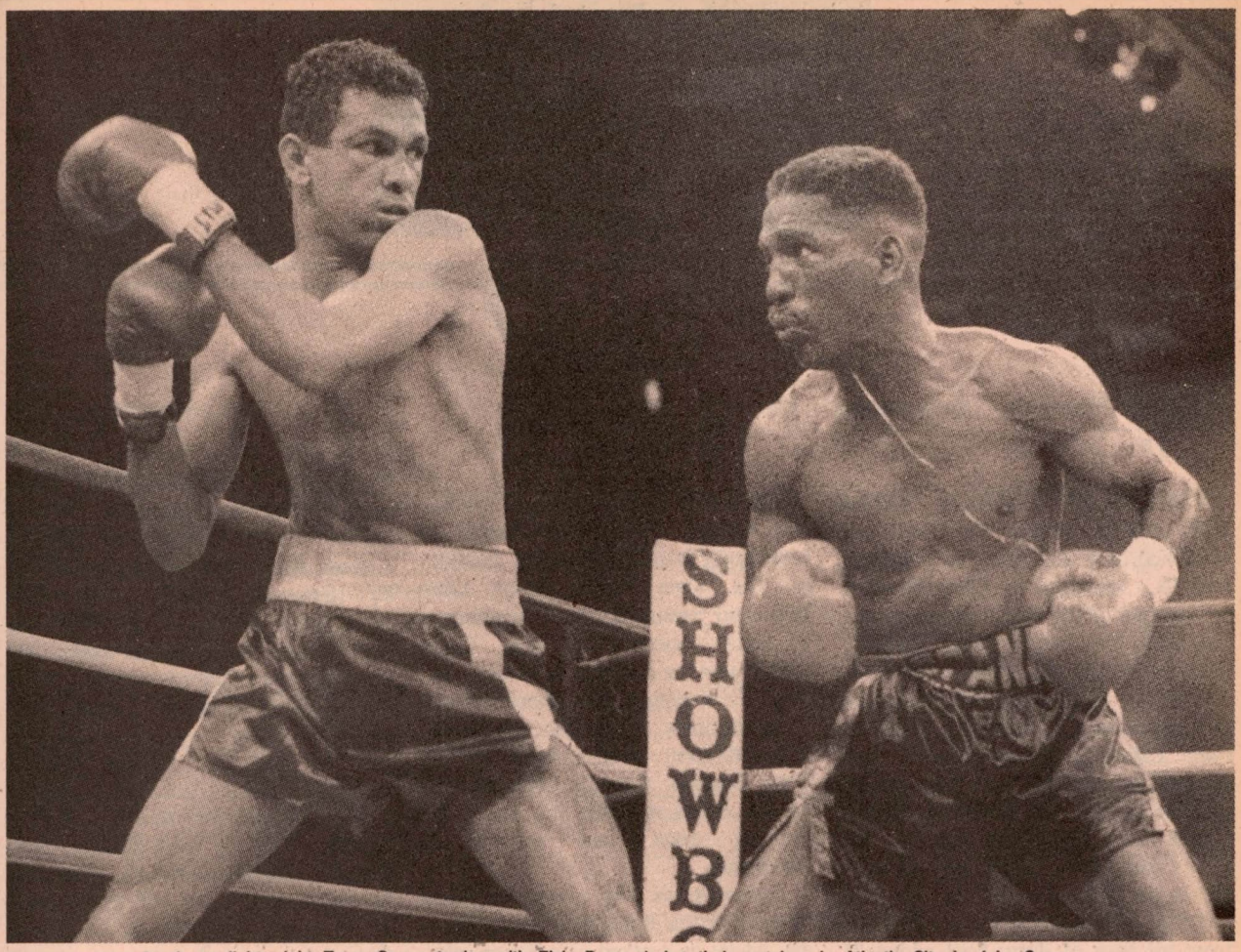
"Nobody wants to fight Tracy," added Cognetta, an auto dealer in Staten Island, New York, who handles Spann with Dr. Brian Raditz. "Freddie Pendleton fell out two times. Haugen turned us down. A year ago we wanted to fight Tunde Foster, and nobody would talk to us. The figures Primo Ramos wanted were so outlandish that it was obvious he didn't want to fight us, either."

If the 135-pound contenders are indeed ducking Spann, it's because they're aware of his last two efforts, brutal knockouts of the usually rugged Miguel Santana and fringe contender Elvis Perez.

In Philadelphia in April, Spann faced his toughest test in Santana, who had nearly dethroned then-IBF champion Haugen a year earlier. In the first round, Spann suffered a dangerous cut over his left eye.

"The cut was very bad, and my sight was kind of blurry," he said. "It took 20 stitches. I knew I had to take him out. Then, in the second round, he hit me a good shot and banged me into the ropes. I said to myself, 'It's time to go to work.' "

Less than a minute-and-a-half later, the bout was over.



Southpaw lightweight Tracy Spann trades with Elvis Perez during their matchup in Atlantic City in July. Spann registered a fourth-round kayo.

Spann, who grew up and lives in Plainfield, New Jersey, didn't start boxing until age 18. After "doing a lot of bad things that I got away with," he turned to the ring to better his chances in streetfights and to impress potential girlfriends. It was at the very start of his career that he realized he possessed punching power that is best described as natural. The girlfriends, we presume, were sufficiently impressed.

"In 1983, at a tournament in Quebec, I kayoed this Canadian champion, and he was out for 10 minutes," he said. "And with Frank Navas [in 1987], I hit him so hard with a straight left that it scared me. I could've hurt him bad. He was out for a while."

Predictably, Spann's strength leads to his major weakness, a disregard for defense. His trainer of five fights, Johnny Persol, has been trying to adjust what he calls Spann's "kill this guy" approach.

"Most fighters, when their defense is bad, it's not because they don't care, it's just that they're thinking, 'Let me hit this guy,' " Persol said. "They don't understand offense and defense go hand in hand. Tracy needs to slow down mentally, work on his balance and defense. I've seen a little improvement."

But not as much as Persol would like. That's because Spann hasn't been the most willing of students. Described by his handlers as "a kid of the streets," he hasn't adhered to a strict training schedule.

"When he's there, he's the best student," said Persol. "Getting him in the gym, that's the problem."

Spann doesn't deny that the problem exists. He says he is young, and he has a tendency to enjoy life. It has also frequently frustrated him that "sometimes I work and work and work and get no fights. For what?"

But at age 26, Spann says he's changing. He's a newlywed, and he and wife Valerie are raising their four-year-old daughter.

"One of the reasons I got married was that it was time to settle down, change my ways," Spann said. "I can *feel* the change. I *will* be in the gym all the time."

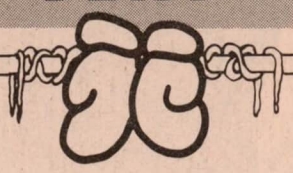
The first few months of 1990 will likely shape the rest of Spann's career. The lightweight has fulfilled half of a four-fight promotional deal with Top Rank that was signed in May. In less than five months, Spann has advanced from unrated unknown to top-10 contender and potential star.

"It *is* tough getting guys to fight him," said Katz, "because he's a little destroyer. It's the Marvin Hagler syndrome all right; he's going to have to fight every tough guy who's number one in order to get a shot at a champion."

"It's taking me forever," said Spann, who's been a pro for six years. "It's kind of hard to believe. I should have some belt around my waist by now."

Perhaps Spann should give Marvin Hagler a call. Hagler might explain that at this point in the lightweight's career, the key to his success will be patience, not power. For Hagler, after all, once the bell rang, all those handicaps became advantages. □

VETERAN BOXERS BEAT



By Angelo Prospero

THUMBNAIL SKETCH FROM THE PAST: Jackie Cranford was born February 20, 1922, in Washington, DC. Managed by Chris Dundee, he was one of the White Hopes of the Joe Louis era, boxing from April 21, 1941, to August 23, 1948.

A rangy 6'2" stringbean, Cranford turned pro as a middlewight, losing to Flash Lightning in two rounds. Undaunted, he returned in 1942 to win six of eight bouts, his only loss coming against Eddie Finazzo. A stint with the U.S. Coast Guard interrupted his boxing career for all of 1943, '44, and much of '45. When Cranford returned from his tour of duty, he'd added 25 pounds to his frame and continued his career as a full-fledged heavyweight.

Surprising fans with his toughness, Cranford tallied 12 straight wins, including 10 kayos, and became *The Ring's* Prospect of the Month in April 1946. But when he shuffled off to Buffalo, matters took a decidedly negative turn.

The Queen City of the Great Lakes was anything but friendly to Cranford. First, he was dispatched in one round by ninth-ranked Phil Muscato. And if that wasn't enough, another Buffalo loss, this time to Ross Strickland, certainly put his hopes for a title shot on hold.

But Cranford battled back with six wins in a row, avenging the Strickland defeat along the way via 10th-round knockout. When he lost to Bernie Reynolds and Bill Thompson, however, it looked like Cranford's career was finished. But as we all know, looks can be deceiving.

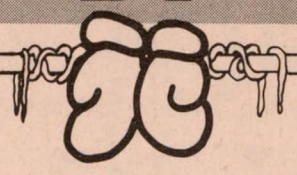
The resilient Cranford reeled off six more wins, including an upset over veteran Buddy Knox to gain another match with Reynolds at Madison Square Garden. When Cranford kayoed Reynolds in two rounds in spectacular fashion, boxing fans began to once again speak of him as a contender. But when Italian import Gino Buonvino pounded out a unanimous 10-round decision over him, Cranford's days as a contender were over. While he managed three more victories over mediocre opposition, retirement followed soon after a kayo loss to Tony Bosnich. Overall, Cranford had 44 pro bouts, winning 33, losing 10, drawing once, and scoring 22 knockouts.

Following his ring career, Cranford returned to his home in Macon, Georgia, where he worked as a liquor salesman and owned his own bar. He still follows the fights and once a year journeys to Miami to visit his cousin Helen, who just happens to be married to Angelo Dundee.

Now 67, Cranford is retired and in good health. He would love to talk boxing with readers of *The Ring*, who can drop him at line at: 5709 Whippoorwill Drive, Macon, GA 31206.

AROUND THE VETERAN BOXERS SCENE: The annual Ed Cudley Outdoor Boxing Outing and Picnic in Buffalo, New York, was a huge success. Featured were exhibitions by veteran boxers Rocky Cudney, Ron Toy, Vince Cala, Tony LaBarbra, and Paul Weilopski . . . Condolences to Bill Poland, heavyweight contender from the 1930s, whose wife recently died. Bill now resides in Las Vegas . . . Tommy Stenhouse, former lightweight contender who beat Mike Belloise, recently retired after 35 years of meritorious service as a high school teacher . . . Bob Edgett, leading Canadian amateur trainer, took his famed Boys Club on a long jaunt from Dorchester, New Brunswick, to Sardinia, Italy . . . Donnie Lalonde was honored by the Rochester Boxing Association at its 12th annual dinner with the Integrity Award. Also honored were Iran Barkley (Courage Award), Dave Wolf (Manager of the Year), and Hank Kaplan (Fight Publicist of the Year). Other guests were Tommy Gomez, Willie Pep, Johnny Cescario, Prentis Hall, and Tom Hicks . . . It was 50 years ago that the five Finazzo brothers (Sam, Joe, Eddie, Jackie, and Johnny) all fought on the same card. The Fighting Finazzos were recently given special recognition by the Maryland Boxing Hall of Fame . . . It is also 50 years since Don Williams of Akron, Ohio, was one of the most popular clubfighters in that area. He exchanged punches at Goodyear and Firestone smokers, and also had many bouts at the old Barberton Opera House run by Harold Walsh . . . The International Boxing Hall of Fame and Museum opened its doors in Canastota, New York (Thruway Exit 32), with a two-day gala featuring 12 world champions. According to director Edward L. Brophy, the 2,000 square-foot structure will soon be adding more displays in another wing currently under construction. Much of the beauty of the boxing memorabilia can be attributed to painter and sculpture Silvio DeCristofaro . . . John Romanelli, of Orangeville, Ontario, has one of the largest collections of Muhammad Ali memorabilia in the world . . . Danny Wambolt has been re-elected as president of Ring 4. The former New England amateur great scored many victories, but his biggest came three years ago when he beat cancer. "Many fighters in the U.S. were by my side during that battle," said Wambolt. "It gave me a whole new attitude" . . . Johnny DeJohn, 76, is still going strong, training Lou Villar in Syracuse. □

WATCHING TV



DATE	WINNER/LOSER	DIVISION	NETWORK	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
08/12/89	Loreto Garza W 12 Frankie Warren *Garza triumphs despite boxing with one eye swollen shut*	USBA jw	CBS	B+	A-	B+
08/14/89	Augustin Caballero KO 4 Vincent Pettway *Streaking Pettway derailed in own backyard by sub*	w	SC	C+	B-	B
08/14/89	**Michael Nunn W 12 Iran Barkley** *Careful performance leaves ringsiders disappointed in Nunn*	**IBF m**	**HBO**	**A**	**A-**	**B-**
08/14/89	Sammy Fuentes W 12 Rodolfo Aguilar *Fuentes finally wins Forum's 140-pound tourney*	jw	PT	B	A-	B-
08/15/89	Ray Mercer KO 1 Tracy Thomas *It's time for Mercer to work a few rounds*	h	ESPN	C	C-	D
08/17/89	Frankie Randall W 10 Jerry Page *Page forces sloppy inside fight, but Randall still sharper*	jw	USA	B-	B	C-
08/20/89	**Pernell Whitaker W 12 Jose Luis Ramirez** *No doubt this time as Whitaker pitches near-shutout*	**IBF/WBC l**	**ABC**	**A**	**B+**	**C+**
08/21/89	Jose Bermudez KO 4 Louis Howard *Howard, out of shape and unwilling, floored thrice*	jm	SC	B	B-	C
08/22/89	Alfredo Rojas W 10 David Taylor *Taylor much more competitive than usual*	jw	ESPN	C-	D	B-
08/24/89	Michael Dokes KO 3 Wesley Watson *Dokes wants quick and easy night and gets it*	h	MSG	B	C	D
08/24/89	Lloyd Honeyghan W 10 Delfino Marin *Honey boxes smartly after shaky start*	w	USA	B-	C	B
08/27/89	Buddy McGirt W 10 Gary Jacobs *McGirt handles southpaw's relentless aggression*	w	NBC	B+	B+	B
08/28/89	David Gonzales W 12 Armando Baeza *Winner unimpressive in retaining state title*	l	SC	B-	C+	B-
08/29/89	Abe Gomez W 10 Jeff Franklin *Franklin cut early, outhustled by harder-punching foe*	f	ESPN	C	C	B
08/31/89	**Daniel Zaragoza KO 10 Frankie Duarte** *Duarte takes prolongued beating in farewell fight*	**WBC jf**	**PT**	**A**	**B**	**C**
09/03/89	Roy Jones KO 7 Ron Amundsen *After three fights, Jones ready for 10-rounders*	m	NBC	C+	C+	C
09/03/89	Ed Hopson W 6 David Moreno *Teenager flashes fastest hands since Meldrick Taylor*	jf	NBC	C	C-	C-
09/05/89	Ray Mercer KO 1 Dino Homsey *Homsey falls from first punch, and twice after*	h	ESPN	C+	B-	F
09/11/89	**Meldrick Taylor W 12 Courtney Hooper** *The best one-sided fight you'll ever see*	**IBF jw**	**SC**	**A**	**B**	**A-**
09/12/89	Dennis Milton W 10 Robbie Sims *Faded Sims no longer defensively competent*	m	ESPN	C	B	B-
09/12/89	**Gilberto Roman W 12 Santos Laciar** *Roman starts slowly, then cruises to dull win*	**WBC jb**	**PT**	**A**	**B+**	**C-**

Category explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' future; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.)

(World title fights in **bold** *type)*

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight.)

Network key: PPV—Pay Per View; PT—Prime Ticket; SC—SportsChannel America; Show—Showtime

BOXING'S BIBLE REBORN AT AGE 68

By Stanley Weston

WHEN I WAS 10 years old, my father brought me an old copy of *The Ring* magazine, which he had bought at a second-hand book store. He paid three cents for it. The date on the cover was May 1925. The stories and the pictures—mainly the pictures—fascinated me. I was hooked on boxing for life. Whenever my father could find an old copy of *The Ring,* and the three cents, he would buy it and I would relish every word and picture. My collection of *Rings* started to build, and now, more than half a century later, my devotion to boxing and *The Ring* hasn't diminished.

A few years after my father gave me my first copy of *The Ring,* he moved his family to the Long Island, New York, resort city of Long Beach, about 25 miles from New York City. I was 13 years old and about to get the biggest break of my life, a break that would set the course of my entire career.

One Sunday morning I was playing touch football with a few friends on a plush lawn about four houses down the street from where I lived. Suddenly a short man appeared, about 5'6", with thinning hair and a pair of dark eyes that seemed to pop out of his head. Annoyed that we were chewing up his freshly seeded lawn and flower beds, he grabbed the football and sternly demanded that we get off his property and never return.

But he quickly had second thoughts. If neighborhood kids were made mad enough, who knows what kind of damage they could do to the lawn and flowers and maybe even the house and car. At that point he did a complete turnabout. Tossing the football gently toward me, he forced a smile and asked, "How would you fellers like to make a dollar each?"

'I Couldn't Let The Old Girl Die'

Startled, we nodded our heads as one. "Sure. What do we gotta do?"

"Help me cut the lawn, wash the car, and sweep the sidewalks all around the house."

The deal was made with smiles and handshakes all around.

We completed the entire job in about four hours and stuck out our hands to be paid. The man patted each on the head. "Well done," he said, as he peeled dollar bills off his large roll of bills for each of us. We thanked him and started to walk away. "Hold it a second, fellers," he said. Digging into the paper bag he had on the lawn table, he pulled out a handful of brand new magazines and gave each of us a copy.

I couldn't believe my eyes. It was the latest issue of *The Ring,* the August 1933 issue, with a striking painting of the classic John L. Sullivan-Jake Kilrain championship fight on the cover. I had never before seen a *new* copy of *The Ring.* At this point I suddenly realized that I had seen the man's face before. But where? The answer came as I thumbed through my new *Ring.* There, on the editorial page, was the little man's picture, right next to the headline, "Nat Fleischer Says."

After my friends had left, I stayed on to chat with Mr. Fleischer. He was delighted that I knew so much about boxing, and that my best friend was *The Ring.* "Who's your favorite fighter?" he asked.

"I have two favorites, Jack Dempsey and Joe Gans."

"Very good choices. They are a pair of my favorites, too."

That's how it all started 56 years ago. I began hanging around the Fleischer home, day and night, until it was bedtime. I felt part of the family. I adored Nat Fleischer's wife, Trudy. She was the first person to encourage what she called my "natural artistic talent." And Joan, Fleischer's only child, was, to me, a little princess.

In 1935, Jack Dempsey asked Fleischer to select about 100 famous fighters and make up 20-by-24-inch photographs of each. Dempsey ordered the pictures to decorate the walls of his restaurant, then located on Eighth Avenue at 50th Street, across the street from the old Madison Square Garden. Dempsey asked Fleischer if he could have the pictures colored. Nat assured the former heavyweight champion it could and would be done.

Since color photography was practically unknown at the time, the pictures would have to be hand colored with transparent oil paints. But who would do the hand coloring? Nat Fleischer already knew the answer when he told Dempsey his pictures would be in color.

The 100 large pictures were delivered to the Fleischer home in Long Beach and taken down to the cellar. The day they arrived, Fleischer put his arm around my shoulder. "Stanley, how would you like to help me color all these pictures? I'll show you how to do it."

I was very excited when he moved two chairs over to the large table in the cellar, asked me to sit down, and then sat down beside me. He opened a large box of oil paints, tore a piece of cotton from a huge roll, and rolled the cotton around the tip of a pencil-like stick. He proceeded to load the cotton with a flesh color and started to spread the color over the face of Jim Jeffries, whose photo Fleischer pulled randomly from the huge stack.

Stanley Weston first went to work for *The Ring* in the summer of 1937. Over a half-century later, the sport's top boxing publisher has purchased *The Ring* and ushered in a new era for the "Bible of Boxing"

For almost two months I sat side-by-side with the Editor of *The Ring* magazine, coloring that mountain of photos. When the job was finally finished, Fleischer thanked me, handed me two $50 bills, and said, "Stanley, I couldn't have done it without you. But your big thrill is yet to come. Just wait until you see all these pictures framed and hanging on Dempsey's walls. It will make you very proud to know that you are part of them."

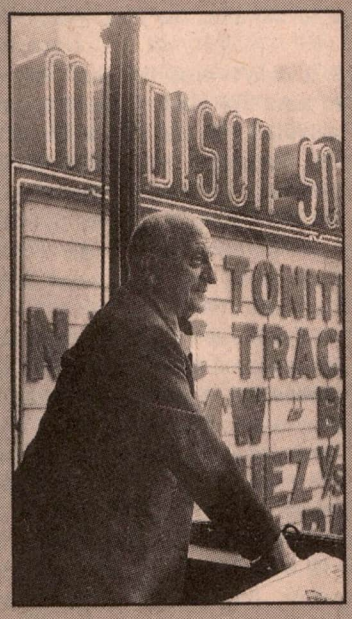
How right he was. Months later, the pictures were finally in place and Fleischer took me to Dempsey's restaurant. And there they were, staring out at me like actors on a great stage.

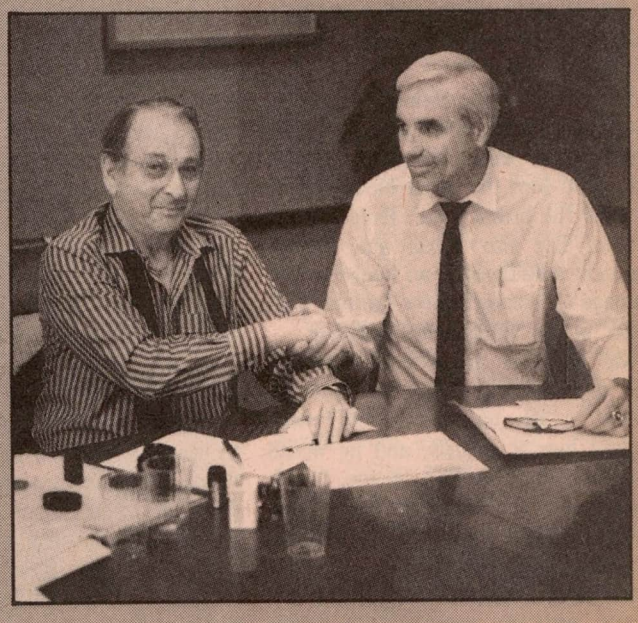
Fleischer started to take me to boxing shows. The first fight I saw was on July 31, 1934, at the Freeport (New York) Stadium. The great former light heavyweight champion Tommy Loughran took on Johnny Risko, who was known as the "Cleveland Rubberman." Loughran was long past his prime and it saddened me to see him lose the decision.

In 1937, I graduated from high school. Fleischer asked me to take a summer job at *The Ring's* office, located in the Madison Square Garden arcade. The pay would be $20 a week. I grabbed it. I wrapped subscription copies, clipped newspapers, swept floors. I also went to all the fights, and my eyes popped when famous fighters came to visit the office. Jack Johnson, Barney Ross, Tony Canzoneri, Jackie "Kid" Berg. Dempsey himself, Jack Sharkey. One day Primo Carnera had to bend low to squeeze his huge frame through the doorway. I was aghast. I couldn't believe any man could be so gigantic.

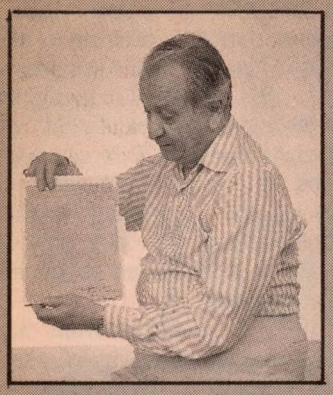
The summer of 1937 came and went. My "summer" job would last 14 years.

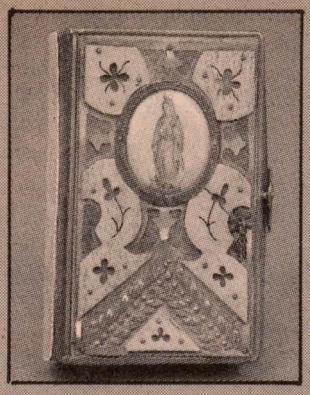
In 1939, Fleischer asked me to try painting a magazine cover. The subject was the brilliant light heavyweight Billy Conn. My picture appeared on *The Ring* cover of the December 1939 issue. I felt 10 feet tall when I saw the first printed proof. That painting of Billy Conn was to be the first of 57 *Ring* covers I would paint, spanning the years 1937 through 1951.



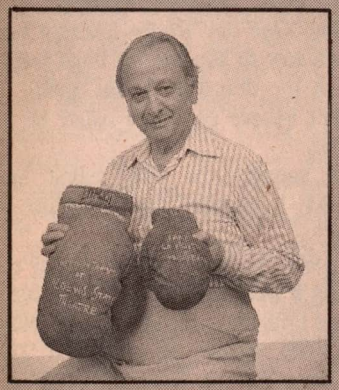


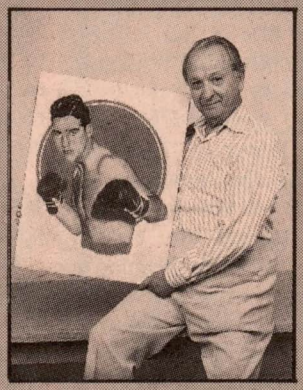
Left: Nat Fleischer, founder and editor of *The Ring* from 1922-1972, looks out his office window when company was located in the old Madison Square Garden in New York. *The Ring* offices were in the Garden more than 40 years. Right: New *Ring* owner Stanley Weston is congratulated by former owner Dave DeBusschere. More than three months of intensive negotiations between legal advisers were needed to complete the transaction.





Some of the priceless memorabilia from The Ring Hall of Fame is proudly displayed by Stanley Weston. Above left: Jack Johnson's signed confession, detailing how he threw title fight to Jess Willard in 1915. Above right: Stanley Ketchel's Bible, found in his room after he was shot dead in 1910. Below left: Huge glove used in exhibitions by Primo Camera and a glove worn by Jake LaMotta against Tommy Bell. Below right: Weston displays original painting for December 1939 cover of *The Ring*, the first of 57 cover paintings he did for the magazine. Right: The white trunks worn by Rocky Marciano in his last fight, against Archie Moore in 1955, and the trunks worn by Joe Louis in second fight with Jersey Joe Walcott.





Nat Fleischer was a chronic collector of anything and everything that had anything to do with boxing: books, photos, clippings, watches owned by famous boxers, silks carried into the ring long ago, clothing, championship belts and, of course, gloves worn in important bouts.

Fleischer had the trainers trained to cut off the gloves at the end of a fight, walk over to where he sat at ringside, and hand him the often blood-soaked tools of the brutal trade. Even famous trainers like Ray Arcel and Whitey Bimstein considered it an honor to pay homage to boxing's most famous non-boxer in the world, Nat Fleischer.

Mr. Fleischer and I had developed our own routine. After he had the gloves in his hand, I would swing around him at ringside and he would hand the soggy weapons to me. I took them home and laid them on a window sill so the sun could dry out the moisture. Then, with white paint, I inscribed the fighter's names on the gloves, with the name of the fighter who wore those particular gloves first. For instance, JAKE LaMOTTA vs. BILLY FOX. Thus we would always know that LaMotta wore these gloves against Fox.

But one spring day in 1941 my dream world came to an abrupt end. I had been drafted into the United States Army. It was six months before America would be drawn into the second World War, but my draft number was one of the first to be pulled out of the "fish bowl" in Washington. I was discharged almost five years later as an Air Force major.

In December 1945 I returned to the only civilian job I ever had, at *The Ring*. But things had changed. I now had a wife and an infant daughter. Instead of going to the fights, I chose to be home with my family. No longer did I become starry-eyed when Jack Johnson or Jack Dempsey stopped by. And the pride that once went with painting a *Ring* cover or preparing the monthly *Ring* ratings with Nat Fleischer had vanished. Fleischer tried his best to reassure me that I would soon get back into the swing of things.

"Every soldier, when he returns to civilian life, goes through the same withdrawl pains. The same things happened to me after the First War," he said.

But it didn't work out that way. I had to leave *The Ring* or lose my sanity. In 1951, I quit and took a job with another publisher. My timing could not have been worse. One week after I had left *The Ring,* I received official notification from the U.S. Air Force that I was being recalled to active duty for the Korean War.

Two years later, I finally received my discharge and launched a magazine called *Boxing & Wrestling*. The magazine proved a success, but most of the joy that normally goes with a winner was lost when Nat Fleischer turned bitter toward me and changed from a second father to a scornful enemy. I knew he would not like me becoming a competitor, but I never expected the vicious, underhanded poison he spread

about me at every opportunity. Never to my face or on the phone. Always behind my back. Suddenly, all doors slammed shut in my face and I became persona-non-grata in the business in which I grew up. People of influence in boxing, people whom I considered personal friends, suddenly couldn't remember my name. I couldn't get a fight ticket, a press release, a publicity photo. Such was the influence Nat Fleischer exerted in boxing.

But all this made me more determined to publish magazines superior to *The Ring*. And this I did accomplish. In 1958, I launched *Boxing Illustrated*. I produced the entire magazine in the cellar of my home. The only help came from my wife, Hope, and my dear friend, boxing historian Bob Thornton. *Boxing Illustrated* became an immediate success. I published it until 1964, when I resigned after a dispute with my financial backers. Many issues of *Boxing Illustrated* outsold *The Ring*.

Over the years, I launched several new boxing magazines: *Boxing International, World Boxing, Boxing Pictorial, KO, Knockout, Boxing 90, KO Presents,* and a variety of annuals, yearbooks, and countless special issues. For every copy of *The Ring* sold, our various titles outsold it four and five to one.

Nat Fleischer died in 1972 at age 84. *The Ring* continued under the direction of Fleischer's son-in-law, Nat Loubet, and Fleischer's lifelong friend and fellow journalist, famed baseball writer Daniel M. Daniel.

In the late-'70s, *The Ring* was put up for sale. After boxing collector and manager Jimmy Jacobs made an unsuccessful bid, the magazine was purchased by a group headed by basketball great Dave DeBusschere. After a few years, newspapers reported that the magazine was in financial trouble, and rumor had it that *The Ring* was for sale again. I expressed interest, but DeBusschere denied *The Ring* was for sale.

Early this year, stories of *The Ring's* severe financial difficulties began to appear in newspapers again. By this point, the thought of acquiring *The Ring* didn't enter my mind. I considered it unsalvageable. *The Ring* was dead.

Ken Gudaitis, president of one of our sister companies, was far more optimistic. "Let me work on this," he said.

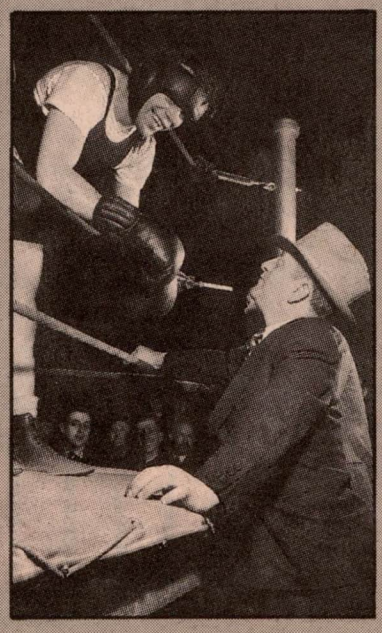
"Fine," I said. "Go ahead. See what you can do."

The very next morning Gudaitis and DeBusschere were having breakfast together. When Ken reported that things had gone very, very well, his obvious enthusiasm rubbed off on me. And began to snowball. Was it possible that after so many years, I would actually own *The Ring*?

All during the three months of hard negotiations that followed, I refused to talk about it. Not until the deal was finally done did I accept the first congratulations.

Then came the transfer of the incredible *Ring* collections of pictures, clippings, and priceless assorted memorabilia. It took four moving vans to transport the more than 60 jam-packed file cabinets and 75 cartons to our warehouse.

Above: Nat Fleischer presents heavyweight king Ezzard Charles with 1949 Edward J. Neil Memorial award. Below: Fleischer chats with lightweight champ Lou Ambers at Stillman's Gym. Ambers was in training for title defense against Lew Jenkins.



I have not yet looked closely at this mountain of material. But in taking a peek here and there, I was astonished to see file folders that I had originated more than 50 years ago. I felt like I was in a time machine going back in my life history.

And there, lo and behold, under a crumbling sheet of brown paper, was the very first cover painting I had ever made, Billy Conn, in 1939. I thought I must be dreaming. But please don't wake me if I am.

And there's Stanley Ketchel's very own Bible, the one found in his room after he was murdered in 1910. And there's the pen Jim Corbett used to sign for his title fight with the great John L. Sullivan. And there's Joe Louis' custom-made purple trunks that he wore in the second Jersey Joe Walcott fight. And the white trunks with black stripes worn by Rocky Marciano and autographed "To Nat Fleischer and Jim Norris. My last fight . . . Rocky Marciano." When I showed the two pair of trunks to my old friend Thornton, he quipped, "For God sakes, DON'T HAVE THEM CLEANED!"

Laying in an old broken carton packed in with gloves worn by Steve Belloise, Vinnie Vines, Jake LaMotta, and Al Davis, I found a file folder, and there, before my eyes, lay what is probably the most precious and unique document in not only the history of boxing, but all sports: the signed confession by Jack Johnson, dated Paris, France, January 2, 1916, in which he describes in detail how and why he faked his fight with Jess Willard in April 1915 at Havana, Cuba, and thus lost his world heavyweight crown.

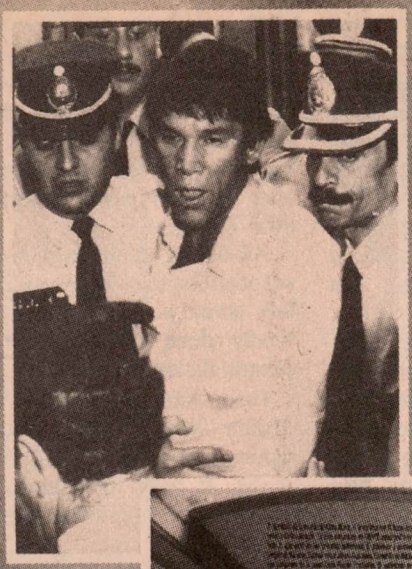
It should be pointed out that Fleischer, to whom Johnson sent his confession in hopes that Nat could sell it to a magazine or newspaper and thereby acquire desperately needed cash for him, believed the confession untrue and therefore never published it or even tried to sell it.

As you can understand, *The Ring* is vastly more than just a magazine. It's an institution. And despite the fact that my relationship with Nat Fleischer turned from love to hate, there's no doubt in my mind that he's looking down from above with a big smile on his face, happy and at peace, confident that his beloved *Ring* is finally in the safe hands of one who loves her as much as he does. □

EXCLUSIVE

The RING

COVERAGE



CARLOS MONZON CONVICTED OF MURDER

By Carlos Irusta

On the chilly night of Monday, July 3, 1989, three judges handed down a unanimous decision—former world middleweight champion Carlos Monzon was guilty of murdering his former lover, Alicia Muniz.

The tragedy occurred on the morning of Sunday, February 14, 1988, at Mar del Plata City. Only two people were awake at 5:30 that morning in the house on 1567 Pedro Zanni Street. Only one now knows what really happened between them. The other is dead.

Alicia Muniz, 32 years old, the mother of Monzon's six-year-old son, Maximiliano Roque, was found near the swimming pool, her head destroyed, the result of a plunge from a second-floor balcony.

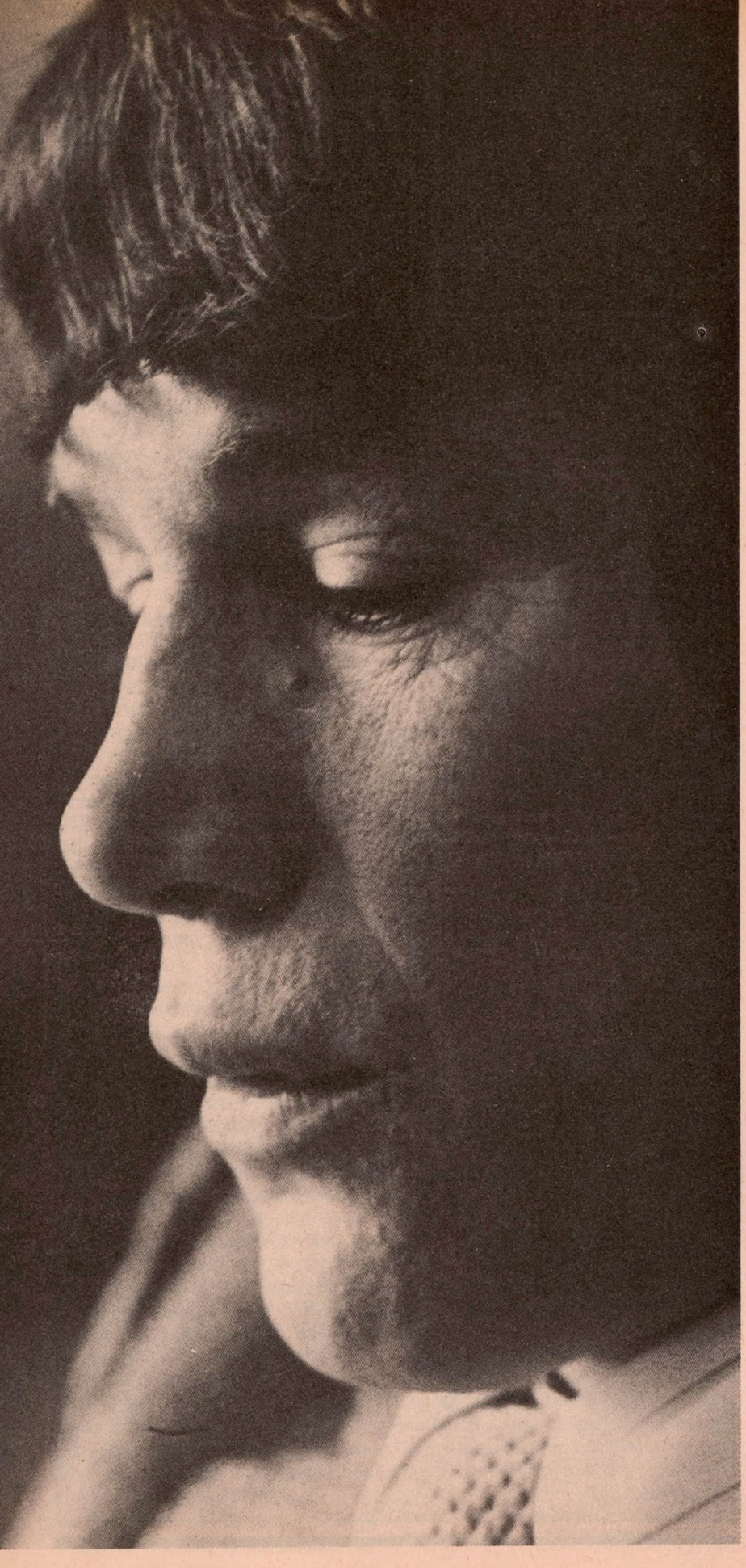
On that chilly Monday, when the sensational trial reached its climax, more than a thousand people packed the second floor of the tribunal; not just journalists, lawyers, and friends, but also the mother of Alicia Muniz. Outside, in the dark streets, another thousand waited expectingly to hear the outcome of the trial that had rocked Argentina. It took 50 minutes to read the decision of judges Jorge Issachs, Carlos Gustavo Pizarro, and Alicia Ramons Fondeville. Monzon looked serious and worried.

When the verdict was finally announced, only one word floated through the night air. The word was "guilty."

***

In the early hours of February 14, 1988, Monzon and Muniz left the Mar del Plata casino and went to the Club Penarol, an establishment well-known for its first-class restaurant. During the summer season, Mar del Plata, 50 minutes by air from Buenos Aires, is the most popular and exciting place in Argentina.

Muniz had arrived the day before and had planned to spend one day in the city. Monzon was there with their son, little Maximiliano. Alicia intended to pick up the boy and return with him to Buenos Aires on Monday.



Monzon had reserved a room for her at the Rivoli Hotel, but she decided to stay with Monzon in the house on Pedro Zanni Street.

The two had first met at Buenos Aires' Ezeinza Airport in 1979, while waiting for a flight to France. A romance blossomed, but by the next year they were separated. Then, in 1981, they reconciled when Alicia became pregnant. When Maximiliano was born on December 28, 1981, Monzon told the press, "This is the beginning of a new life for me."

Did his relationship with Muniz and the birth of their son really change Monzon? It is difficult to say. They lived in a big apartment in one of Buenos Aires' most sophisticated districts and seemed, on the surface, to be a happy couple. But Monzon was always Monzon: living in the fast lane, attending parties, driving a Mercedes, always the center of attention in magazines and on television programs.

He liked to spend his afternoons playing cards in a barroom ("La Cuyantina") with old men. With little to do, he tried his hand at various business ventures but had little success. He lost $200,000 importing Korean TV sets to Argentina. A clothing store also lost money. As Monzon's problems mounted, he began to drink heavily. There were also rumors of cocaine use. His always-stormy relationship with Muniz began to sour.

"Yes, it's true. Sometimes Alicia left home, but she returned," admitted Monzon. "It was just wife and husband arguments, you know."

But during the last few months before her death, Alicia went to live with Monzon's parents, while Carlos stayed at the apartment.

"Last Christmas, I spent alone," said Monzon. "I opened a bottle of French champagne. I was alone, at home, absolutely alone."

But their love was not dead. They still met most weekends, often at the house on Pedro Zanni Street. Television actor Adrian Martel rented the house and encouraged Carlos and Alicia to stay there.

"I was trying to keep them together," claimed Martel. "The relationship was still good. I tried to obtain a reconciliation."

"We made love that Saturday afternoon," testified Monzon, recalling the weekend of Muniz' death. "And then, we decided to take in a little fun and went out."

After drinking champagne with some friends at the club, they decided

to return to the house. Around 5 a.m., they sent for a cab. The driver, Nestor Celso Tonnini, didn't want to wait, but changed his mind when he heard the passenger was Monzon. "That's another story," said Tonnini, who, like most citizens of Argentina, was a Monzon fan.

"They seemed to be in love the whole trip, kissing each other and talking," Tonnini said.

What happened after their arrival depends on whose version you believe.

At the trial, 23 people testified. Among them were a former boxer, Rafael Crisanto Baez, and another man named Alferedo Arturo Moyano. Both said they saw what happened. But they told different stories.

Here, first, is Monzon's version of what happened:

"When we arrived, everything was okay. Maximiliano was sleeping. We started to argue when Alicia asked for more money. I asked her to live with me again. 'You don't need to work for $10 again,' I said. The argument continued. I took a can of beer, a cigarette, and left the room. She was seminude. She came to me. I was outside, near the balcony. She pushed me and the cigarette burned my breast. She started to run, and I followed her. I don't remember very well, but I suppose I took her by the neck with my hand. She was very near the balcony . . . and I can't remember what happened. It was just as if we were in a fog. I can only remember trying to catch her with my left arm . . . I can't say what happened. I woke up on the ground [below the balcony], with Alicia near me. I started to shout, asking for help . . . "

Monzon cried, "Alicia is dead. Alicia is dead." He tried to wake Carlos Guazzone, the man who took care of the house, but Guazzone and his companion, Maria Mercedes Vignoles, were asleep. Monzon took a jar and broke a glass door. Guazzone awoke and phoned for help. A few minutes later, a doctor arrived and found Monzon lying in the street, where Guazzone had put him. Monzon's arm was injured and the doctor carried him to an ambulance, ignoring Alicia. Monzon had said nothing about her, and the doctor never entered the grounds to examine Alicia.

The first policeman to arrive, Jorge Pereyra, found Alicia face-down in a pool of blood. He took her right wrist and pronounced the obvious: "She is dead."

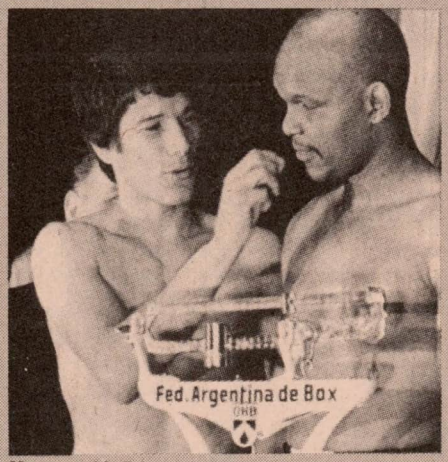
A Personal Memory Of A Fallen Legend

By Nigel Collins

Like many baby boomers, I was hitting my physical prime (if I ever had one) around the same time as Carlos Monzon. But except for our mutual interest in boxing, the similarity ends there. I was just a cub reporter in May 1970, when Monzon destroyed Nino Benvenuti to capture the world middleweight title. *The Ring* did not fly me to Rome to cover the bout ringside.

A few years later, however, I did have the opportunity to meet the man who would go on to tally 14 successful title defenses, a division record that stands today, 12 years after his retirement.

Monzon had perhaps his best year in 1972, turning back the challenges of Denny Moyer (TKO 5), Jean-Claude Bouttier (TKO 13), Tom Bogs (TKO 5), and Bennie Briscoe (W 15). Along with Muhammad Ali, he was the co-winner of *The Ring's* Fighter of the Year award, and the sole recipient of the Edward J. Neil Memorial Award, given by the Boxing Writers Association of America to its selection as the year's top boxer.



Monzon with Briscoe in 1972

Monzon jetted to New York City to accept the boxing writers' award, presented at their annual dinner. I drove up from Philadelphia with a carload of folks from the Philly fight fraternity, including Briscoe. Bennie had given Monzon a tough fight and hoped to eventually secure a rubber match. Besides the title-fight loss, he'd held Monzon to a draw in '67, and was still a force in the 160-pound class.

Monzon was far from the only boxing great on hand at the pre-dinner cocktail reception, but he was doubtlessly the star of the show—and he knew it. A magnificent physical specimen, he seemed taller than the 5'11½" credited him in *The Ring Record Book*. His Indian heritage was far more evident face-to-face than via the TV screen. He was strikingly handsome wearing an immaculately tailored blue suit.

But the guest of honor wasn't exactly Mr. Cordiality. He stood off by himself, staring down his nose with regal disdain at the cluster of fans and fight people eager to shake his hand. He looked mean and bored, a monarch begrudgingly acknowledging his subjects.

As I made my timid approach, Monzon broke into the only smile I had seen crease his handsome mug the entire evening. Could this unprecedented greeting be meant for me? Of course not. Monzon's smile was for Briscoe, who was by my side. Affection between old adversaries isn't unusual in boxing, but on that particular occasion, it was the only sign of the man beneath the icy mask. For the rest of the function, Monzon remained cold and aloof.

A few years later, I watched from the cheap seats as Monzon retained the title with an easy 10-round TKO over Tony Licata at Madison Square Garden. Cheering him on from ringside, Monzon's girlfiend, movie star Susana Gimenez, was much more interesting than the one-sided action inside the ropes.

By the time he retired, still world champ, in 1977, Monzon had compiled a remarkable 89-3-8 record, with one no-contest and 61 knockout victories. He was, without a doubt, one of the greatest middleweights of all time. But when I think about Monzon, it is not his ring triumphs that first pop into mind. It's that boxing writers' dinner and the look in his eyes. Back then, it wasn't hard to imagine the fear he struck in opponents' hearts. And right now, having read the testimony and seen the photos of Alicia Muniz lying dead in a pool of blood, it's not too difficult to imagine him rotting in a small-town jail in Argentina.

Monzon with his first wife, Beatriz Garcia, in 1970, the year he won the middleweight title.

Monzon maintained Muniz' death was an accident, but a laboratory test on her body aroused suspicions. The test indicated Muniz had suffered tremendous manual pressure to her neck. Investigators also wanted to know why Muniz didn't try to break her fall with her arms or hands. There was also the question of all the blood found in the house. Monzon's story of an accident just didn't fit the facts.

Baez, the former boxer who testified at the trial, said he saw a tall man on the balcony with a semi-nude girl . . . "and the blonde, she was running away from him, but he trapped her. He connected with a one-two combination and the girl fell. Then the man went into the house. He returned, and took the girl around the neck. She tried to defend herself like a little cat, using both hands. He picked her up and let her fall to the ground. She made a noise like a lot of breaking glass."

The other witness, Moyano, told a different tale.

"Yes, they were arguing," Moyano told the court. "Monzon took her by the neck and sat the girl on the balcony [railing], and at that moment they both fell at the same time."

According to the first witness, Baez, Monzon committed murder. According to Moyano, it was just an accident. But what was the truth?

Monzon was always a tough man. In his early years, he used to put women out to work on the streets. He also had problems with the police and was obliged at one time to go to Brazil for a while until trouble blew over. But there were no great problems. It is also true that Monzon has a bullet in his back, a souvenir of his first wife, Beatriz Garcia.

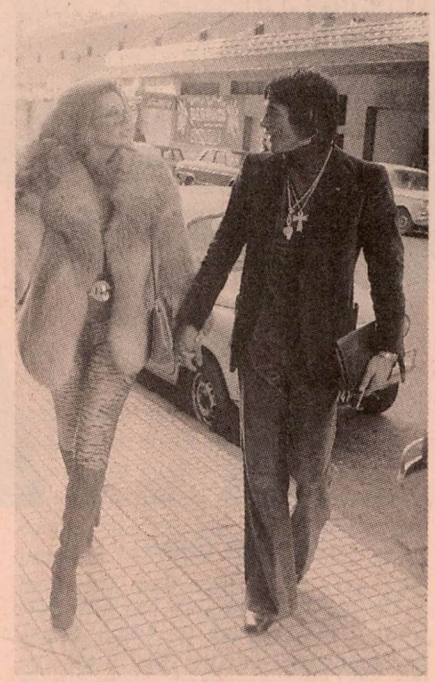
"It was an accident," they both claimed.

The press battle was another part of the story. No other trial in Argentine history received more attention. The tabloids published lurid photographs of Muniz' body and the funeral. Nobody was neutral. Everyone had an opinion. When Monzon was escorted to Batan jail (a little town near Mar de Plate), crowds gathered, shouting: *"A-se-si-no"* (killer) and *"Dale-campeon"* (c'mon, champion) at the same time. Sixteen months after his arrest, the trial began. Ironically, on the same date 13 years before, Monzon had retained the middleweight title against Rodrigo Valdes.

Different radio stations all over the country transmitted the trial every day at 2 p.m. When the experts began to testify, the lawyers for Muniz' family declared, "The dead talk . . . the body of Alicia will talk."

Eight so-called experts made a tremendous mess with their technical speeches, but one conclusion was clear: By the time Alicia Muniz had fallen to the ground, she was already unconscious.

Other evidence damaged Monzon's defense. He admitted, "I hit all the women in my life, with only one exception." This was also a blow to his image; such a macho man hitting women.



Monzon with actress Susana Gimenez near the famed Luna Park in Buenos Aires in 1970.

On the last day of the trial, Monzon's lawyer, Horacio D'Angelo, made his final appeal to the court. It was a familiar refrain.

"It was an accident," the lawyer said, "just an accident."

The prosecutor, Alberto Ferrara, said it was murder and asked the judges to sentence Monzon to 18 years in prison.

After the guilty verdict was rendered, Monzon told another of his lawyers, Patrico Perello, "You did everything you could . . . I'll be okay."

Monzon is back in Batan jail, hoping for a miracle. In his last words to the jury, he said, "I didn't kill Alicia. I loved her. She was the mother of little Maximiliano. I believe in God and justice."

Perhaps Monzon came closest to the truth when he said, "Me and my bad temper are the ones really responsible. Yes, my bad temper."

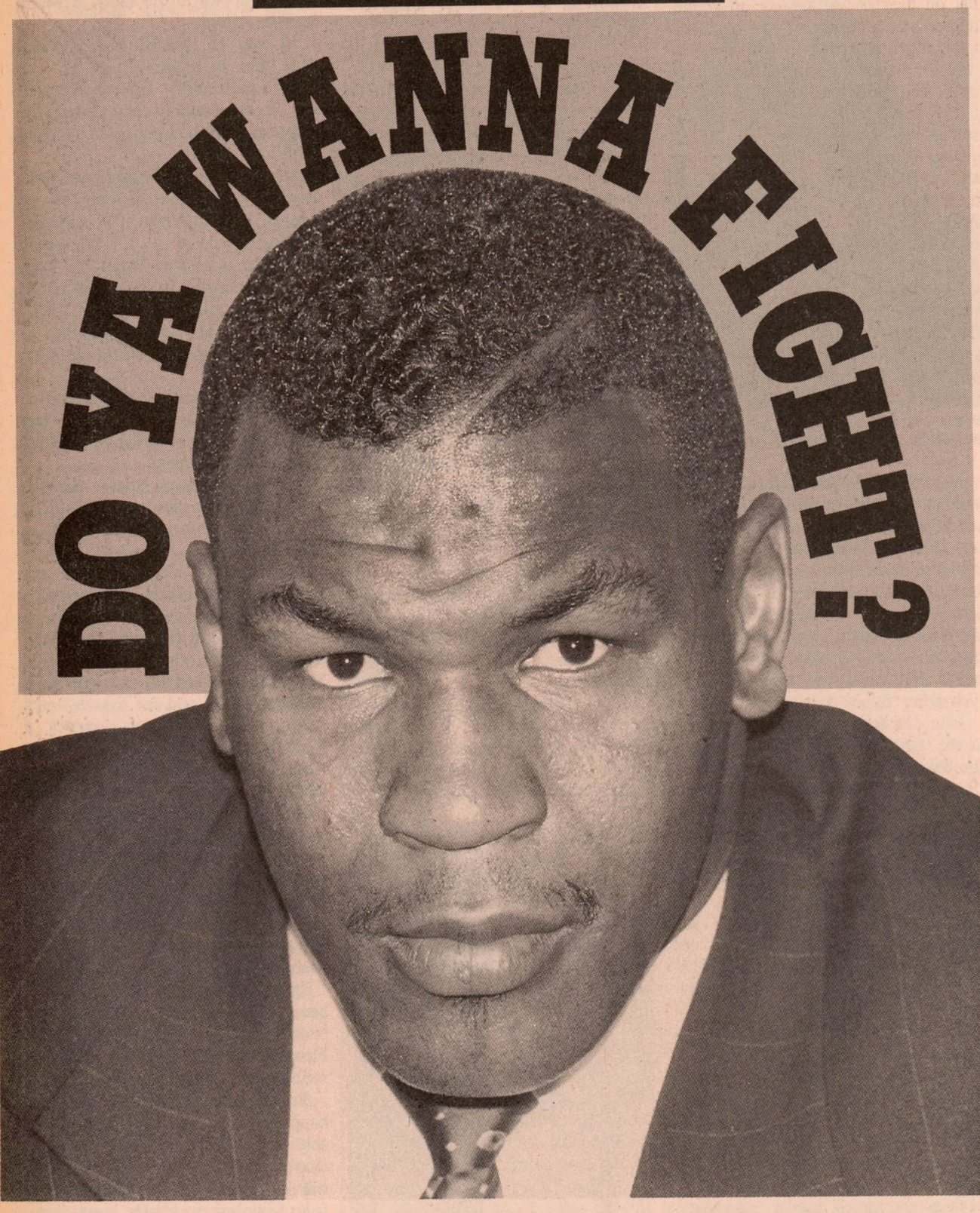
The truth remains elusive. But the fact is Muniz is dead, and Monzon, now 47, will be in jail for the next 11 years of his life.

Monzon is not alone. Many of Argentina's boxing heroes have met with cruel, dramatic fates: Pascual Perez, the former world flyweight champion, died of cirrhosis. Oscar Bonavena, the heavyweight contender who gave both Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier tough fights, was shot to death outside a Reno brothel. Two-time light heavyweight champion Victor Galindez was killed in an auto racing accident. Ubaldo Sacco, the former WBA junior welterweight champion, became involved with drugs. Former WBA junior bantamweight champion Gustavo Ballas fell victim to alcohol. Jose Maria Gatica, one of Argentina's most important boxing idols of the '50s, was run over and killed by a bus. Cesar "The Beast" Romero, the former light heavyweight contender who kayoed cruiserweight contender Jose Maria Flores, was shot to death during a robbery.

There is no explanation for what happened to any of them, or to Monzon for that matter. Monzon had emerged from poverty. He was—and still is—a very violent man, coming from a violent world. He knew glory, the world championship, the best hotels, big money . . . everything. He learned how to fight in the ring like the tremendous, unforgettable champion he was. He simply never learned, as most common men do, how to fight with life's common problems. □

MIKE TYSON:

DO YA WANNA FIGHT?



By Nigel Collins

What a drag the Mike Tyson-Carl "The Truth" Williams fight turned out to be. But then, what did you expect, "The Thrilla In Manila"?

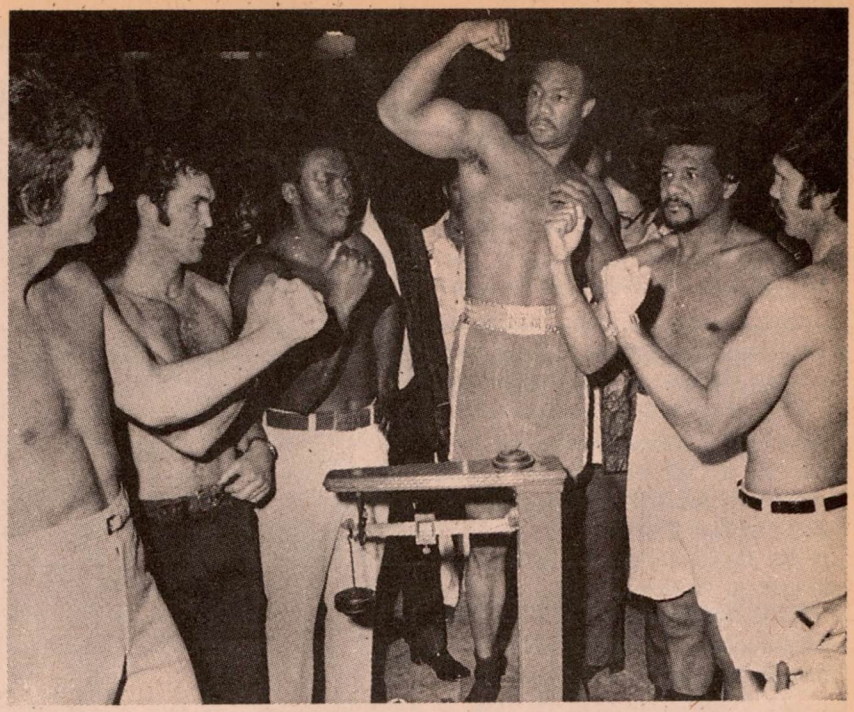
There was a time not too long ago when it was enough to watch Tyson level someone—*anyone*. But in the immortal words of B.B. King, "The thrill is gone." Most of us are bored with the same old same old. What we yearn for now is a real fight. You remember, that's when both guys have a reasonable chance of winning.

Nobody's blaming Iron Mike. It's not his fault he's so damned good. You can't even fault his hapless chal-

lengers. They train hard and do their best to ensure competitive contests. They just always end up the same way: flat on their backs, looking up at the referee as he counts them out. All right, all right, so some of them were actually standing (sort of) when the end came. But you get our drift.

Oh, sure, there's still a couple of contenders who might be capable of giving the champion a run for his—and more importantly your—money. In fact, two of them, Evander Holyfield and—dare we say it—George Foreman, are discussed in great length elsewhere in this issue. But for a variety of reasons, it might be a little while before we see either of them across the ring from Tyson, the man Jose Torres ranks right up there with Don Juan and Casanova in the Lovers' Hall of Fame.

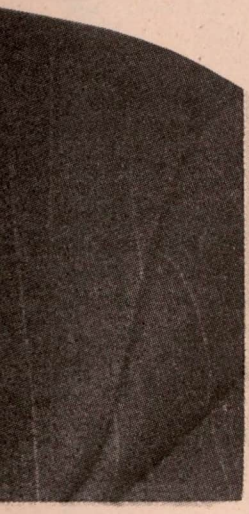
In the meantime, we have a few modest proposals, calculated to liven things up a bit. While *The Ring* continues to stand for Mom, Apple Pie, and all the great boxing traditions, we've been in danger of falling asleep at the computer terminal while writing about Tyson's recent outings. Fearing that you, our loyal readers, may be suffering from a similar state of lethargy, we've decided to share a few of these off-the-wall suggestions:



Seeking competition, Mike Tyson could emulate George Foreman, who tackled five fighters in one day (above). If Gerry Cooney ever fights Tyson, should he be allowed to box with face and head properly protected (below)?

PROPOSITION #1 – *INTRODUCE TAG TEAM BOUTS TO BOXING:*

Of course, Foreman tried a variation of this theme in 1975, when he took on Charley Polite, Boone Kirkman, Terry Daniels, Jerry Judge, and Alonzo Johnson in the same afternoon. But those were exhibitions, and nobody gave a flying fandango, anyway. Besides, Big George was already an ex-champion by then, and that certainly took the edge off the event.



What we have in mind is a little different. Don King would line up three members of his heavyweight stable, say Jose Ribalta, Buster Douglas, and Greg Page. They would cut cards to see which order they would enter the ring; low card would have to climb through the ropes first. The second and third challengers would wait ringside for their turns.

There are a couple of ways the action could proceed from there. The challengers could switch off after every round, but given that many of Tyson's opponents never complete even one round, this scheme might prove impractical. A better plan would be to have each challenger last as long as he could before the next victim enters. If one fighter went the entire 12 rounds, the next would have to wait until the scorecards were tallied and the decision was announced.

This method could very well give birth to some intriguing strategy on the part of the challengers, providing they were smart enough to unite, pool their resources, and agree to share future purses. The first two men up should not try to win, but rather do everything within their limited abilities to frustrate and wear down the champion: clinch, push, maul, run, hide behind the referee's back, you name it. If their plan worked, the third challenger would face a disgruntled and some-

what winded Tyson.

Should a miracle occur, and either of the first two challengers wins, he'd be world champion, and the remaining boxer(s) would pocket their purses without fielding a punch. Everybody goes home happy, with the obvious exception of Tyson.

Of course, tag team boxing may bring a few howls of protest from the Alphabet Boys. Jose Sulaiman might cry the blues about the inhumanity of it all and threaten to withdraw WBC sanction, citing safety reasons. And Bob Lee would probably claim it was all a conspiracy calculated to undermine the IBF's position as a leading governing body. But when all the protests were sounded, hefty sanctioning fees would probably satisfy all parties. And if not, the World Wrestling Federation could always step in and take over.

The only major disadvantage with tag team boxing is that Tyson would most likely run through his laundry list of challengers even quicker than he's

For those of you who just can't live without a conventional account of the dismal fistic proceedings that took place in Atlantic City on the evening of July 22, 1989, we offer the following.

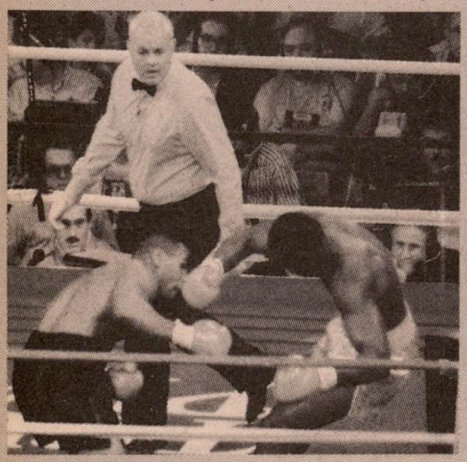
ATLANTIC CITY, NJ—What do you get when you match one of the greatest punchers in the history of the heavyweight division with a guy whose chin has been compared to Lennox china. You get Mike Tyson's 93-second blowout of Carl "The Truth" Williams, that's what.

This was one of those fights that nobody really wanted to see. Trump Plaza had so much trouble selling tickets that the hosts arranged a new, smaller seating configuration for Atlantic City Convention Hall. And Donald Trump still couldn't fill the ancient cavern on the boardwalk. HBO, Tyson's network, claims it was happy with the bout, but that's a little difficult to swallow. Overall, it was an eminently forgettable affair.

Tyson, truly ironlike at 219¼, appeared in much better condition than for his shambling defense against Frank Bruno in February. Williams, 218, had also whipped himself into top shape, but it didn't matter. He was a doomed man the moment the contracts were signed.

Give Williams his due: He tried to win and appeared to have constructed a decent fight plan—move, jab, throw uppercuts, and tie up Tyson on the inside. He drew an early warning from referee Randy Neumann for holding Tyson behind the neck. Except for a couple of body shots, the first significant punch ended the fight.

Williams threw a jab, then another. Tyson ducked down and to his left, avoiding both. Then he rose from his crouch and fired a beautiful left hook. The punch caught Williams flush on the side of the jaw, bouncing him off the ropes and onto the floor.



Tyson floors Williams

Williams opened his eyes at the count of five and was on his feet by the time Neumann reached seven. As the referee stared into the challenger's face, Williams briefly closed his eyes again and took a deep breath. And though he then opened his eyes and seemed to indicate he was ready to box on, Neumann stopped the fight anyway.

Then the fun began.

"Obviously, I was stunned," said Williams, who was angry the bout had been so abruptly terminated. "I wouldn't have gone down if I wasn't stunned. But I wasn't even hurt. I could see if I was wobbly or on queer street, but I wasn't. I was standing straight up."

Neumann, a former heavyweight who had been stopped a few times himself, insisted Williams had not responded adequately when asked, "Are you all right?"

Carmen Graziano, Williams' trainer, begged to differ.

"[Williams] has good recuperative powers," reminded Graziano, referring to the bouts in which "The Truth" had risen from the canvas to prevail. "He would have gotten up. He would have gotten into gear. I wish the hell the referee had given him a chance."

"If he can't talk, if his eyes look like a dead man, that's evidence that the man is impaired," countered Neumann.

Was Williams, 22-3 (18), denied an opportunity, or was Neumann's call justified? The question is strictly academic. Tyson, 37-0 (33), was about to slaughter him anyway. The only people who got ripped off were the approximately 11,000 Convention Center customers, some of whom actually paid to watch the fight. And they should have know better.

The undercard featured a painfully long parade of the usual heavyweight suspects, most of whom eliminated themselves from title-shot consideration with shoddy performances.

Jose Ribalta, 217½, Miami, survived a sixth-round knockdown to win a unanimous 10-round decision over Jeff Sims, 216½, Birmingham, Alabama, by scores of 96-93, 98-92, and 96-94. The uninspired win lifted the Cuban's record to 31-4-1, while Sims fell to 24-5-1.

James "Buster" Douglas, 242½, Columbus, Ohio, was equally unimpressive in outpointing Oliver McCall, 224, Chicago, in another dreary 10-rounder.

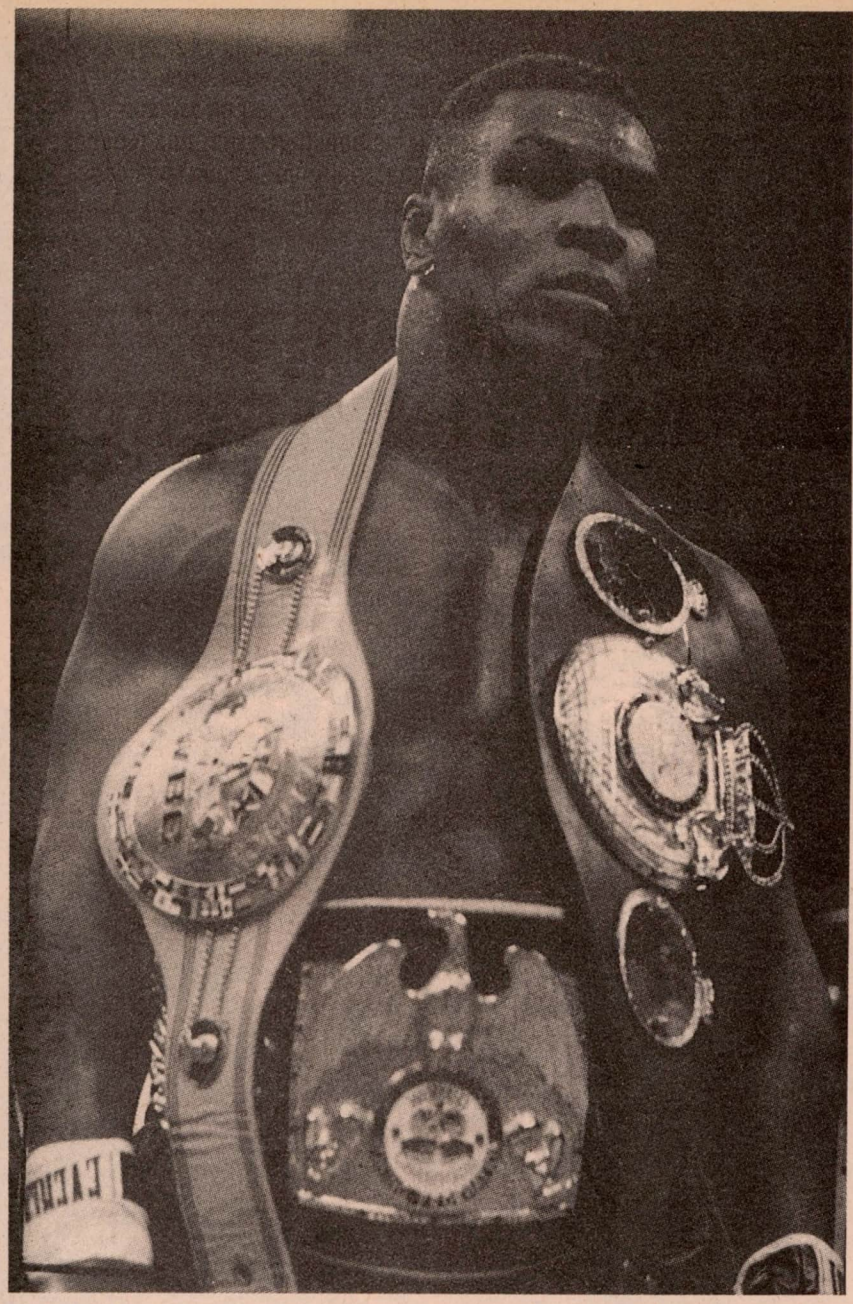
Greg Page, a trim 215, Louisville, Kentucky, had an easy workout at the expense of Charles Woolard, 212, Oklahoma, putting the mismatched Woolard down and out with a right hand at 2:44 of the second round.

In another mismatch, Rodolfo Marin, 222, Bayamon, Puerto Rico, dispatched Jack Johnson, 202, Miami, via TKO at 1:56 of the second round.

Canadian Olympic gold medalist Lennox Lewis, 233, Toronto, tallied his second pro win with a second-round TKO over Bruce Johnson, 192, Columbus, Ohio.

Promoter: Don King. (6-22-88)

—Nigel Collins



Another handicap: boxing while wearing all three of his championship belts. As dominant as Tyson has been, promoter Don King may have to use extraordinary measures to create competitive fights.

managing to do under the current one-opponent-at-a-time system. Which brings us to . . .

PROPOSTION #2—*MAKE TYSON FIGHT WITH ONE HAND TIED BEHIND HIS BACK:*

Don't laugh. Some of you rail birds may have seen something like this in the gym. It's an old trainer's trick used when a novice neglects his jab in favor of power punches. His coach will strap the offending appendage to the boxer's chest with his hand wrapped in a manner that will allow him to protect his face, but not throw a punch. Then the youngster will be forced to spar a few rounds, punching with only one hand. Some fun, eh?

Can't be done in a real fight, you say. Oh, yeah? Well, how many times have you seen some showboat grab the top strand of ring rope with one glove and make a fool of his opponent, bobbing and weaving out of harm's way as his foil flails away, fanning the breeze in a vain attempt to capitalize on his seemingly vulnerable adversary?

But would Tyson agree to these terms? Maybe, maybe not. We have a sneaking suspicion he might agree, especially if his overstuffed ego was properly stroked. If enough people said, "C'mon, champ, you don't need two hands to beat this bum," he just might fall for it. After all, shouldn't the self-proclaimed "baddest man on the planet" be magnanimous enough to give the other guy a teeny, tiny advantage?

Now, let's get down to hooks and jabs. How many of the current pretenders to the throne would be able to beat a one-handed Tyson? Judging by Tyson's excellent head movement and the squat target he presents, not too many. And he certainly doesn't need more than one mitt to ice anybody. In fact, although this ruse may extend his title defenses a round or two and sell a few thousand extra tickets, the fights would inevitably end the same way—with Tyson's punching hand held aloft by the referee.

PROPOSITION #3—*PERMIT TYSON'S OPPONENTS TO WEAR HEADGEAR AND A PADDED CORSET:*

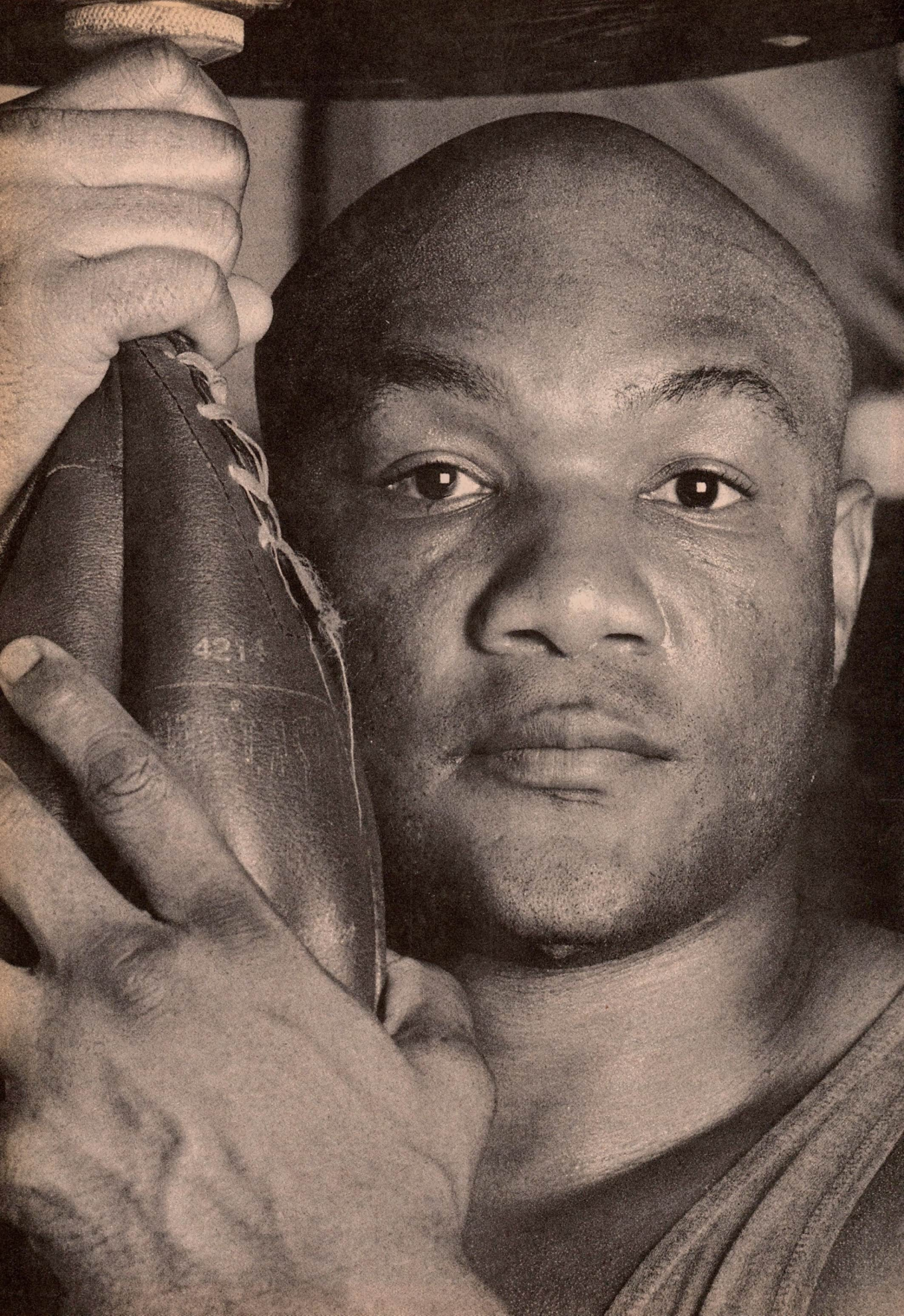
This is another gimmick borrowed from the gym. Sparring partners have been using it for centuries. And while it may soften the blows slightly, in the long run, it would only prolong the challenger's agony.

Actually, this proposal could lead to medical complications. Can you imagine the difficulty ringside physicians could have in prying embedded protective equipment from the heads and torsos of fallen warriors?

PROPOSITION #4—*ALLOW TYSON'S CHALLENGERS TO BRING WEAPONS INTO THE RING:*

The ever-popular "foreign object" has long been a mainstay of pro wrestling. But those dastardly varmints usually hide weapons in their trunks. This is boxing, and everything should be in plain sight. The question is, what kind of weapons should be allowed? What would *you* want to be carrying if Tyson were across the ring and preparing to tear off *your* head? A two-by-four? A Louisville Slugger? Brass knuckles? A tire iron? Frankly, if Tyson calls on his experience as a street thug, none of these would be sufficient. And with guns and knives a bit too drastic, even for this fantasy, this whole scenario seems like another great idea that just doesn't work when put into practice.

The more you think about it, the more you realize none of these weirdo ideas would help much. Pondering the possibilities can provide half-an-hour's mindless amusement, but beyond that, they're useless. What we need is a few good heavyweights. Unfortunately, Carl Williams didn't qualify. □



BIG GEORGE FOREMAN:

The Great Manipulator

By Nigel Collins

Rest assured. Big George knows exactly what he's doing.

It doesn't matter how many people think George Foreman's comeback is a sick joke; there's obviously a whole lot more folks who are enjoying every tainted knockout he tallies on boxing's Seniors Tour. How else can you account for his phenomenal television ratings and the continued public support of boxing's most bizarre campaign since Ed "Too Tall" Jones took a leave of absence from the Dallas Cowboys—and his senses—to try his luck at the Sweet Science?

Rest assured. Big George knows exactly what he's doing.

And it doesn't matter how many sportswriters spew out sanctimonious columns about how Foreman doesn't deserve a shot at Mike Tyson. Unless we miss our guess, he's a cinch to get it.

Rest assured. Big George knows exactly what he's doing.

"Let's face it," Foreman said in response to those who continue to mock his comeback. "Boxing is only a sideshow. You can't show me a sport that isn't a sideshow. Look at Manute Bol in basketball or Big Ben Davidson, who used to play football for the Oakland Raiders. It was crazy giants in shoulder pads who first made pro football popular."

While it's sure to upset boxing purists, Big George just might be right. He's certainly attracting a lot of attention. Name another heavyweight contender—and we use the phrase advisedly—who has recently had his face on the cover of Sports Illustrated. Then there's those aforementioned TV ratings.

"In 1988, we averaged a 2.0 rating for our boxing shows, delivering 891,000 homes," said Brad Jacobs, who purchases fights for the USA Network. "This year we are averaging a 2.6 rating, delivering 1.2 million homes. But when George Foreman is fighting, we get a 3.5 rating, delivering 1.7 million homes. So, as you can see, Foreman means an increase of about 500,000 homes every time he's on USA."

The public's approval of Foreman's comeback was reinforced by a phone-in poll conducted by the USA Network during the telecast of Big George's 10-round decision over Everett "Big Foot" Martin in July. Viewers were given three choices. *One: Foreman should get a shot at Tyson now; Two: Foreman should beat a top-10 contender to earn a shot at Tyson; Three: Foreman should retire.* The vast majority of the 21,272 viewers who responded were solidly in Foreman's corner. Choice one pulled down a whopping 11,061 votes (52 percent). Second was choice two, with 8,296 votes (39 percent). Only 1,915 viewers (9 percent) of those who paid 75 cents to call one of the 900 numbers wanted Foreman to hang up his gloves.

Rest assured. Big George knows exactly what he's doing.

"It supports my theory that real sports fans aren't boxing fans," said NBC's fight broker, Kevin Monaghan. "That's why this Seniors Tour has been so successful. It's all about recognition value. I also have to admit Foreman's people have done a masterful job. Because of his 19 straight victories, a lot of fans think he's been sincerely rehabilitated."

One point everybody seems to agree with is that the second time around, Foreman is a changed man. Gone is the surley ingrate who gave everyone—in and out of the ring—a difficult time. In his place is a genial, cooperative publicity hound who's appeared on *The Pat Sajak Show* and *Late Night With David Letterman*, and who is always willing to meet and greet the public. Loquacious George, of course, has a story to explain his rebirth as a press agent's dream.

"I met a fellow one time, a great football player, Jim Brown," he recalled. "I admired this man so much, he inspired me to become an athlete. Someone introduced him to me in a club in New York City. I was so proud, but when he gave me his hand, it was limp and he just kept on walking when I spoke. So I thought if I ever had the chance to be a celebrity again, I would grab every kid's hand, ask him his name, and give him an autograph. And every old guy who knew me from the past, I owe him a chance to sit and take a picture with me."

One can't help but wonder if a career in politics is the next assignment on Foreman's itinerary.

"I am a product of the general public. I'm the muscle of the public, so to speak," he proudly declared. "If it wasn't for the general public and its respect for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, I would have been dropped right out of the scene. They've stood by me. That's the reason I've traveled all over the country. Sometimes I've boxed just for expenses to show the people I'm for real."

Sorry to disappoint you, George, but there are still a few people who are not completely sold, many of them members of the media.

"There's no doubt the fans are smarter than the sportswriters, twice as smart," Foreman said. "Sportswriters get together and decide who and what they like. They are swayed by deeds outside of sports. They think some guy is the greatest of all-time just because he had them over his house for dinner one time."

George may have a valid point concerning some of the feed-me-to-read-me press corps currently masquerading as boxing writers. But what about critics outside of the fourth estate?

"I'm not too excited about the fact

George Foreman is fighting," said manager Stan Hoffman, echoing the sentiments of many involved in the business side of boxing. "I think it's somewhat of a farce. His TV ratings are high, but people are looking at him like he's a freak. They're not looking at him as a legitimate contender."

Another skeptic is IBF president Bob Lee.

Despite the fact that Lee's organization has sanctioned title shots for such no-hopers as bantamweight Jimmy Navarro and welterweight Jorge Vaca, he isn't about to extend the same privilege to the 41-year-old.

"There comes a time when the final whistle blows and the final bell rings," Lee said. "Many times the fighters themselves are the last to recognize that fact. I think that when a guy reaches a certain age, we have to be very careful. George should give serious consideration to whether he really wants to fight Mike Tyson."

As far as Foreman is concerned, Hoffman, Lee, and all the other bleeding hearts can go pound a turnbuckle. He not only wants Tyson and the multimillion-dollar purse such a match promises, but he claims Iron Mike is *ducking* him.

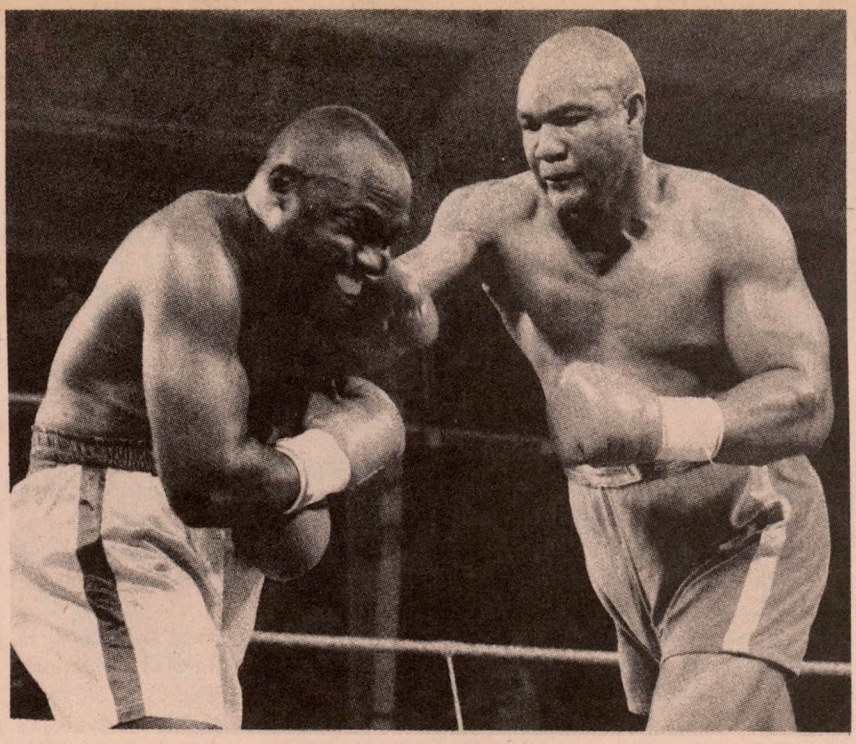
"The Tyson people think they can just keep avoiding me and I'll eventually quit," Foreman said. "But they're wrong. I think they've spent as much effort trying to discredit me as looking after Tyson."

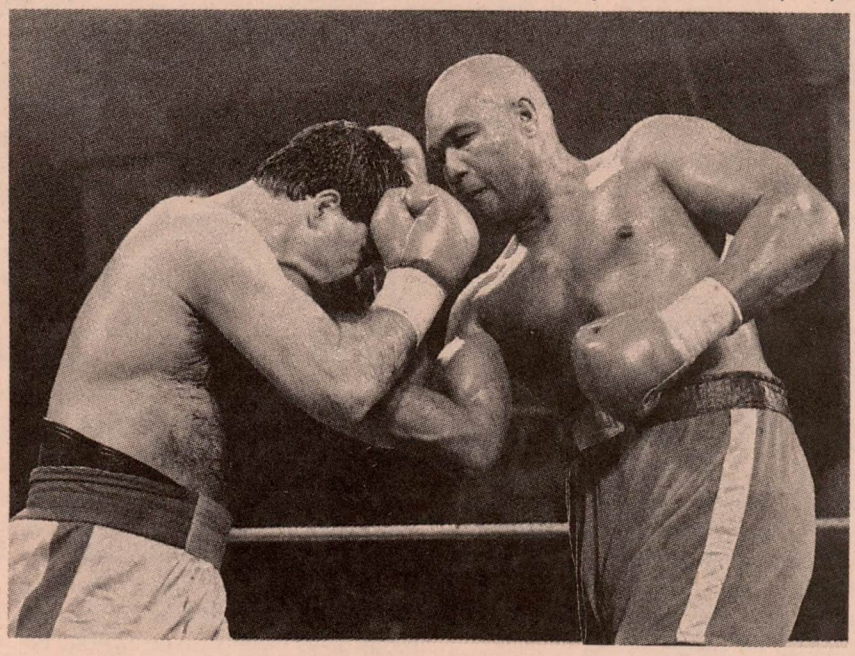
Unless Foreman explodes after a heavy session at the training table or Tyson fulfills Larry Holmes' prophecy and lands in jail, Big George will probably get his wish—some say death wish—and trade blows with Tyson some time in 1990.

"Trade" is the significant word. Even Foreman's harshest critics concede the old dude can still thump a bit. What would happen if Foreman timed a Tyson rush and nailed him coming in with a uppercut like the one he used to derail Joe Frazier in Jamaica all those years ago? It is this scenario—albeit a highly unlikely one—that will have millions of people glued to their pay-per-view TV screens the night Foreman's campaign to regain the heavyweight title reaches its ugly climax. And don't you dare say you'd rather watch Tyson tangle with Jose Ribalta.

Just in case you hadn't guessed, Foreman has fantasized about his moment of truth and says he knows what will happen.

"I know exactly how it will go," he said. "It's not so much the flaws in Mike Tyson that makes me confident. No boxer is unbeatable. There's a way of beating me. I know the way to whup George Foreman. Tyson just doesn't possess that ability."





In his toughest comeback bout, Foreman rallied to stop a grossly overweight Dwight Muhammad Qawi in seven rounds (above). In his third comeback bout, Foreman crunched Italy's Guido Trane in five (below).

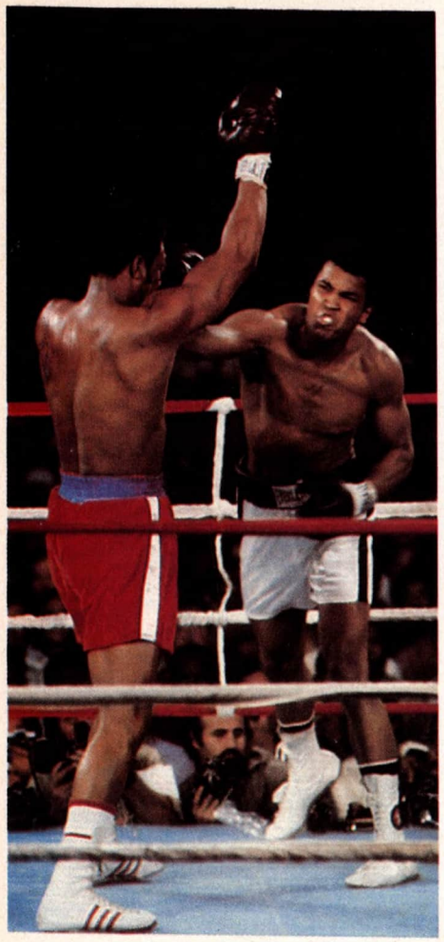
One of the constant knocks on Foreman's geriatric crusade for the heavyweight crown has been the quality of his opposition. For some strange reason, there are people who just won't believe stalwarts such as Tom Trimm, Bobby Crabtree, Ladislao Mijangos, and Manuel Clay De Almeida can provide the sort of preparation needed for a tussle with Tyson. But let's be fair. There has also been somewhat of a double-standard applied to Foreman's case. Michael Dokes struggled to a decision over the oft-beaten Rocky Sekorski and was rewarded with a hefty payday against Evander Holyfield. Foreman stopped Sekorski in three rounds and was criticized for fighting a stiff.

"All my comeback opponents have given me a tough fight," Foreman asserts whenever someone questions the caliber of the bodies placed in front of

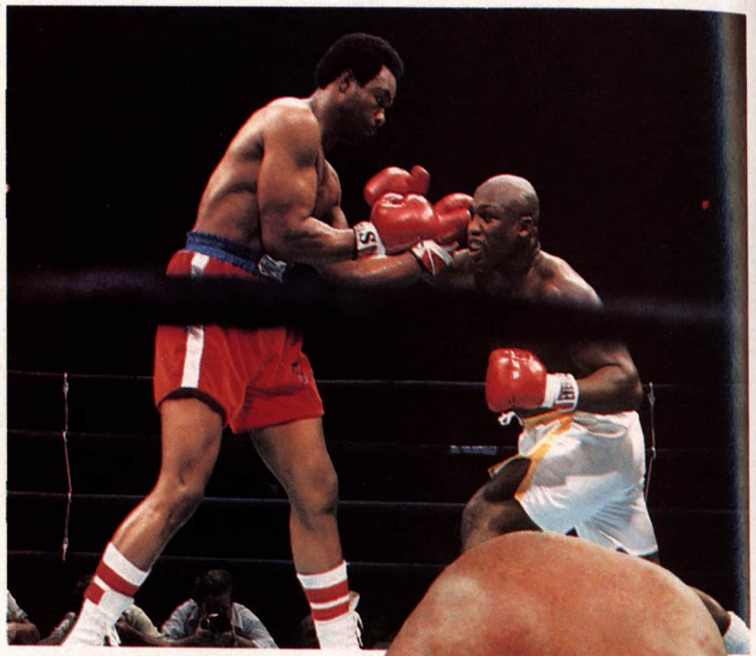
(Continued on page 43)

THEN...

GEORGE FOREMAN



▲In one of the most shocking upsets of the decade, Muhammad Ali dethroned an unbeaten Foreman via an eighth-round TKO to recapture the heavyweight title in October 1974.



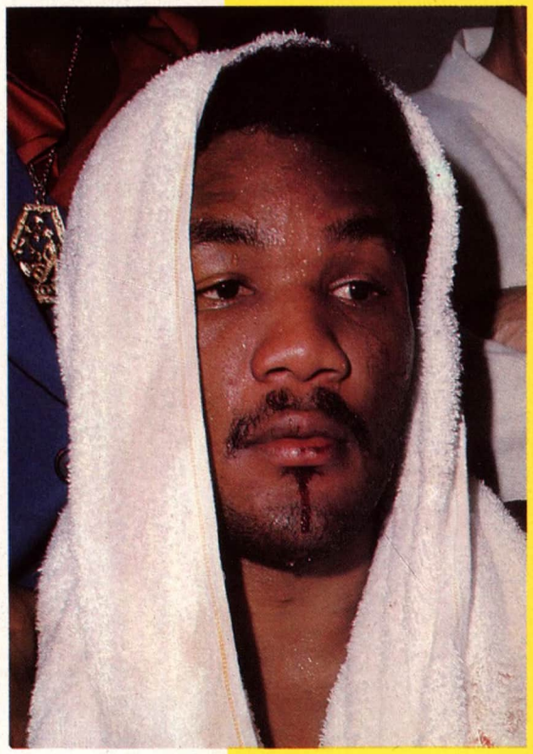
▲The Foreman-Joe Frazier rematch, held in June 1976, wasn't much different from their first bout. Foreman scored a kayo in round five.

►The "new" George Foreman, kayoing Carlos Hernandez in four rounds in June 1988.

◄In 1975, Foreman engaged in a most unusual exhibition in Toronto, facing five different foes in one afternoon. Among them was former world title challenger Terry Daniels.

►His lip bloodied, Foreman seems calm after winning an unforgettable brawl against Ron Lyle in Las Vegas in January 1976. Foreman rose from the canvas—and certain defeat—to score a fifth-round TKO.

▲Foreman's power was evident during his third-round destruction of the usually sturdy Scott Ledoux in Utica, New York, in August 1976. A quick right hand was the final blow. It was the first knockdown of Ledoux's career.

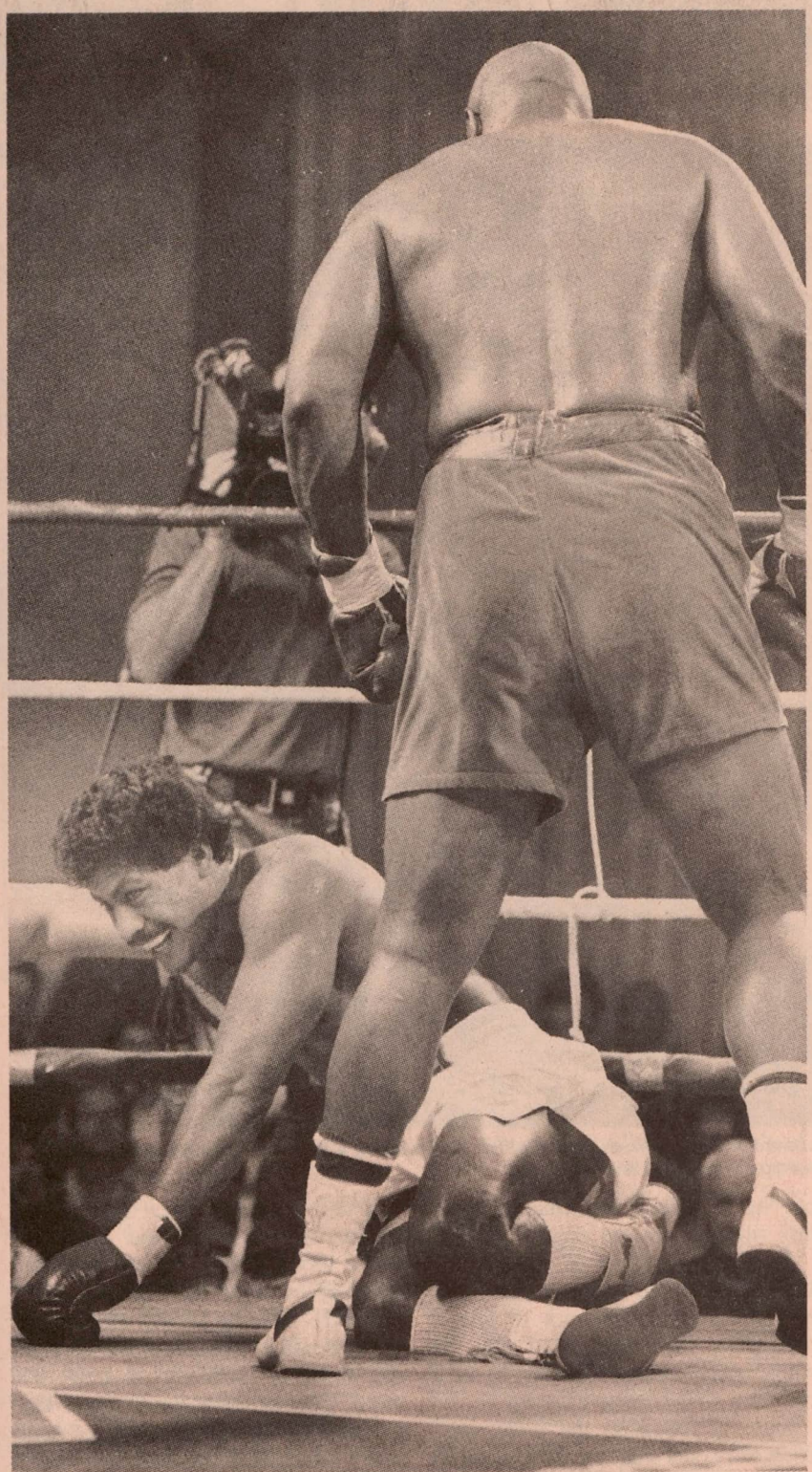


Thought to be indestructible, George Foreman seemed the perfect fighting machine. Ruthless and powerful, Big George parlayed a gold medal from the 1968 Olympics into an impressive pro career. He won his first 40 bouts, 37 by kayo, and captured the heavyweight title from the undefeated Joe Frazier in 1973. But Foreman's reign was short-lived. He defended the title only twice, scoring quick kayos against Joe Roman and Ken Norton, before losing to huge underdog Muhammad Ali in Kinshasa, Zaire, in 1974. Foreman fought six more times, and left boxing after a disappointing decision loss to Jimmy Young in 1977. He turned to religion—until a stranger-than-truth comeback brought him back to the ring at age 39 in 1987. Since starting that comeback, he's 19-0 with 18 kayos. A showdown with Mike Tyson has become a distinct possibility.

...AND NOW

George Foreman

(Continued from page 38)



Foreman has been criticized for rarely facing anything but beefed up cruiserweights. In October 1988, he scored a two-round stoppage over such a foe, faded Tony Fulilangi.

him. "If these fellows had fought me during my previous career, they would have been scared out of their wits, and I would have had an easy time. Now, I'm fighting B and C fighters, or whatever you guys call 'em. But they always start off like A fighters when they fight me. Physically, all guys are the same. It's the attitude they have that really counts. They see me as their big chance and fight over their head."

Though a tad on the small side (who isn't when compared to Foreman?), one or two of Big George's comeback victims have been a notch above your normal record-padding fodder. Cruiserweight Dwight Muhammad Qawi may have been grossly out of condition, but he still managed to bounce a number of clean shots off Foreman's shaven dome before exiting. On paper, Bert Cooper also appeared to be a slightly sterner test than most. Of course, that was before hostilities began. When Cooper inexplicably quit in his corner after only two rounds of semi-abuse, the Arizona commission held up his $17,500 purse . . . and that was before traces of cocaine were discovered in his post-fight urine. Following a hearing, the commission returned all but $1,500 of Cooper's purse and ordered him to undergo drug treatment at his own expense.

"What happened, I think, was they told Bert Cooper that George Foreman was over the hill," the former champ said. "They told him I was old and slow and all he had to do was move around, make me miss for a few rounds, and I'd run out of gas.

"And in one second he realized they had lied to him. And that's a horrible, horrible thing. It got to a point where Cooper said to himself, 'I can't hurt this guy, plus he's hurting me.' When you've got a guy going and he knows it, what's a trainer gonna tell him? 'Go out there and get killed!' "

For those of us who hanker to see Foreman earn his crack at Tyson by beating a bonafide contender—forget it. It won't happen.

When asked about a possible fight with Holyfield, Foreman confessed, "You know, I'm just not interested in those guys. I got back into boxing because I wanted to be champ of the world. I said to myself, 'George, you've got to start back at the bottom, get yourself in shape. You're an ex-champ, you deserve a chance. Get yourself in condition and win this thing.' Now, I've done that."

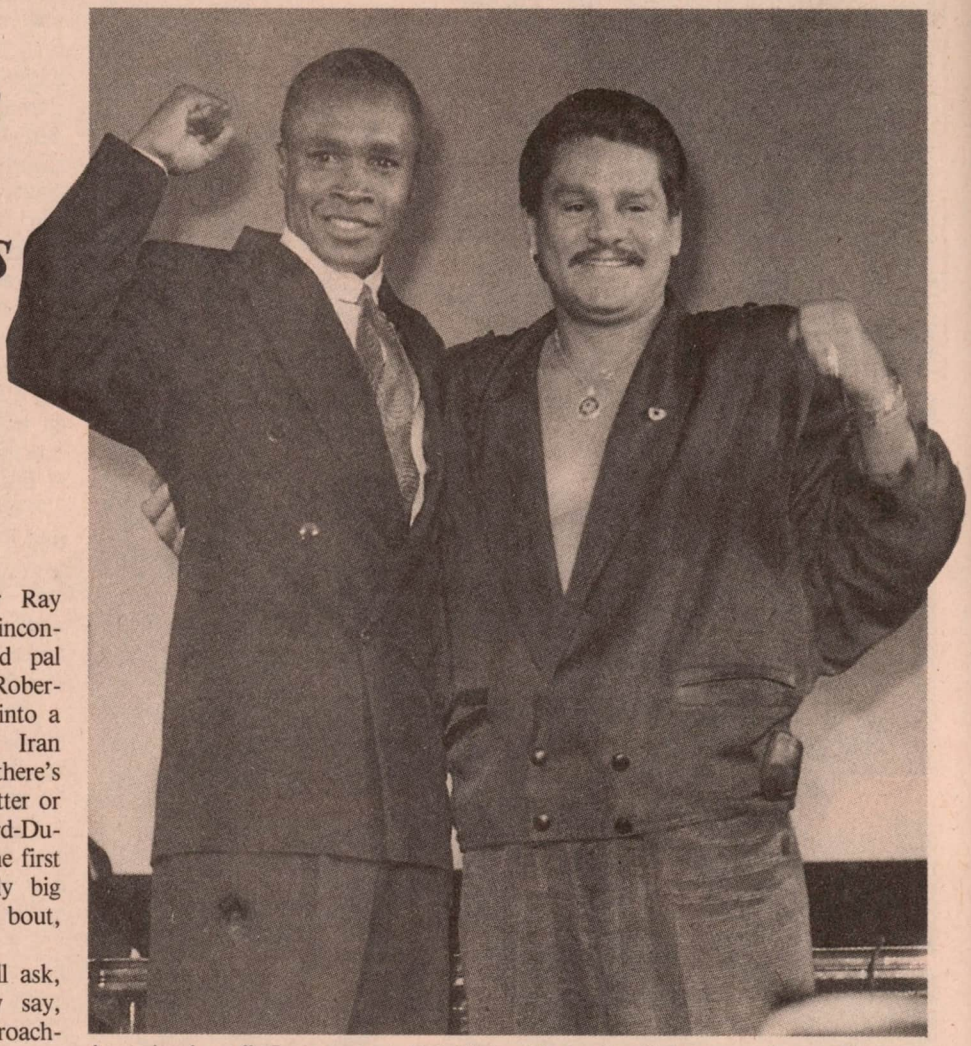
It's hard to fault Foreman's reasoning. Why should he risk a multi-million-dollar payday against Tyson just to appease the suckers who still think boxing is a sport? If you're going to get your brains scrambled, you may as well deposit as much money in your retirement fund as possible.

Yes, Big George knows exactly what he's doing. □

... AND AGAIN, AND

Leonard And Duran Revive One Of Boxing's Oldest Traditions

By Joseph D'O'Brian



Leonard and a puffy Duran announce their third match at a New York press conference. There was smiling and hugs, not animosity.

SO, NOW THAT Sugar Ray Leonard has had a highly inconclusive second go with his old pal Thomas Hearns, and now that Roberto Duran has put himself back into a respectable spot by upsetting Iran Barkley a few months prior, there's really no way to avoid it: For better or for worse, we're getting Leonard-Duran III on December 7. It'll be the first three-bout series to make really big news since the last Ali-Frazier bout, back in 1975.

Some of the more cynical will ask, "Who cares?" After all, they say, Leonard and Duran are fast approaching senility, probably need prostrate surgery, can't punch through a wall of Kleenex, etc. And, they add, knowing Leonard, he's probably checked out all of Duran's medical records and done a little more waiting around than he really needed to, just so there'd be no doubt in his mind that Duran couldn't possibly hurt him. After all, that's the strategy he's supposed to have used in delaying his bout with Marvin Hagler for so many years, right?

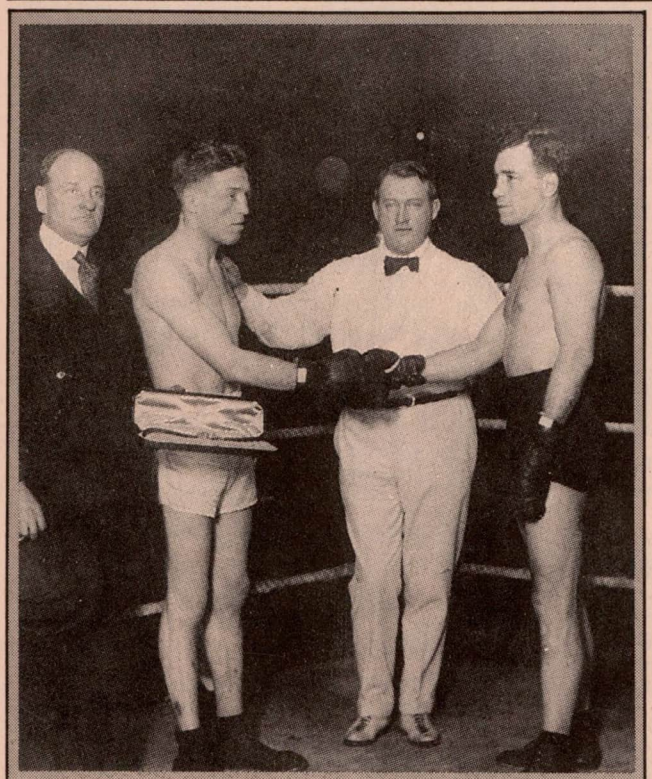
Well, a lot of people have hard words for Leonard. He's a bit of a prima donna, and his general approach to the game sometimes strikes one as inconsiderate. But there's no doubt that he can still fight, perhaps better than anyone else at his weight. And while Duran has gone back a bit, there's no indication that he can't still put up a decent performance when he's wheeled into the ring.

So nobody's going to cry because Leonard-Duran III is taking place. Not even those who claim not to give a damn, nor those who insist that the whole song-and-dance leading up to it has been a farce and a set-up.

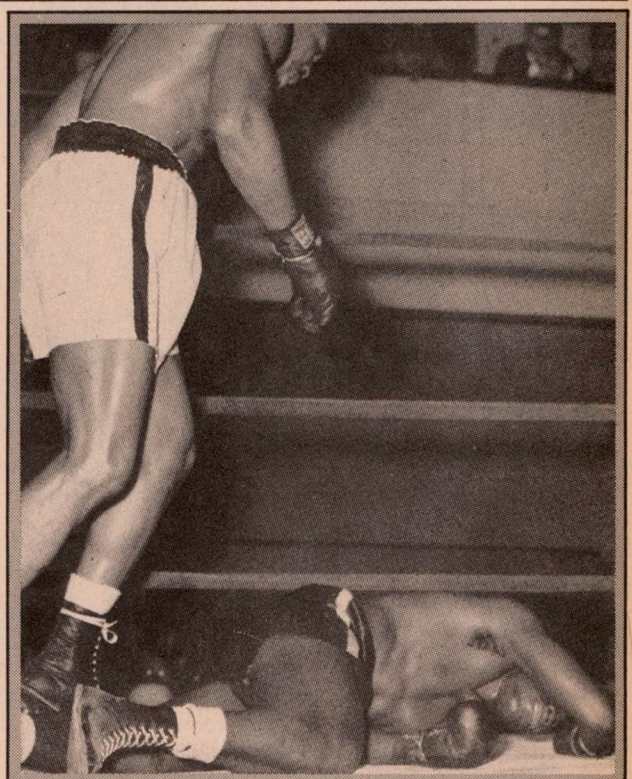
Sure, if you press the point, anybody will admit that the situation looks too good to be true. Here was Duran, reduced to the status of a Cleveland Williams in the twilight years of his career, beating nobodies in under-publicized venues, and not advancing an inch in the ratings. Then they put him in with Iran Barkley, figuring he's a big name with not much of a chance of winning, and he suddenly emerges as a hot commodity once again. Then Hearns, who everyone was convinced was a shot fighter, goes in and damn near kayoes Sugar Ray, and has a lot of people thinking he was twisted out of the decision. Leonard's one big payday suddenly turns into at least two more. Quite a few fighters would like to make a deal like that, but the devil won't return their phone calls.

Here's something else to think about: Not long ago, given the same circumstances, three fighters like Duran, Hearns, and Leonard would have fought a couple of three-bout series in very quick time, say two years or so. None of the shilly-shallying we see today. When Leonard and Duran fight in December, it will have been almost

AGAIN, AND AGAIN



At Madison Square Garden in 1921, frequent foes Ted "Kid" Lewis (left) and Jack Britton square off. Britton won on points after 15 rounds.



Archie Moore, unable to secure a title shot, stands over Jimmy Bivins in the ninth round of their bout in New York City. They clashed five times.

10 years since their second bout! Why do we let this kind of utterly ridiculous nonsense go on?

Do any of us recall that within a span of six years, Jack Britton and Kid Lewis fought 20 times? That in just a bit over seven years, Sam Langford and Harry Wills fought 23 times? That Pancho Villa fought Mike Ballerino 10 times in less than two years? And were any of those fighters any the worse for the experience? So why do we have to drop down to our lousy stinking knees and beg to see Leonard and Duran go at it for a third time in a decade? Hell, begging just encourages them, anyway.

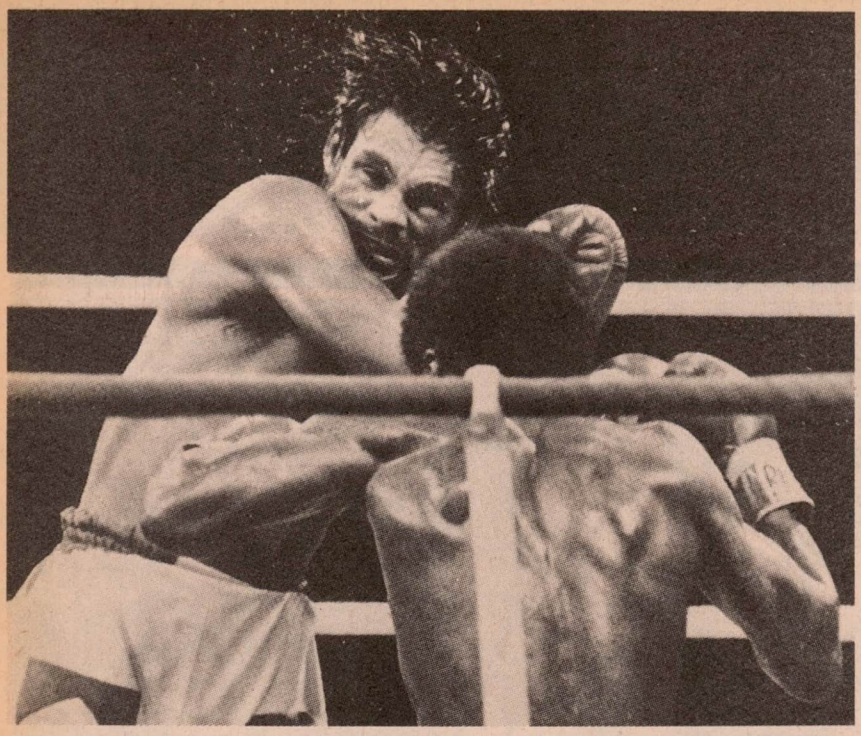
The main reason is simple economics. As usual, you're going to hear a lot of fans talking about how they just don't make 'em like they used to, how today's fighters are just a bunch of pampered sissies who wouldn't last three rounds with the brilliant, brave, invincible fellows of yesteryear, the fighters who would have fought to a finish with two-ounce gloves, just for training expenses and a hot meal. You'll also hear how the guys we've got in there today aren't even capable of putting in more than 10 rounds of honest work in a 12-month period, how there were giants in them days, yes-siree-Bob.

That's a crock. At any rate, it's mostly crock. If Leonard and Tyson and Duran and Holyfield were getting paid on the same scale that Langford, Wills, Britton, and Lewis were, there's little doubt that they'd be fighting more frequently. And, conversely, the old guys would never have fought so often if they had been getting seven-figure purses every time they went to the post. Most people work as hard as they have to, and not much harder, to earn the money they feel they need.

Back in the bad old days, boxers made 10 slow dimes instead of one fast dollar. There was no radio, no TV, no Don King. What a fighter was paid depended entirely on the live gate, or on a guarantee against the live gate. To place it in perspective, the first real superfight, Jack Johnson-Jim Jeffries in 1910, brought in a total live gate of $101,000. That's right, a bout that received as much ballyhoo as any in the century before it, a bout that today would provide each fighter with close to $20-million, brought in only $101,000 in 1910. Johnson was bright enough to insist on a piece of the film rights; otherwise, neither he nor Jeffries would have made enough to pay for more than a couple of good parties.

As for fighters like Langford and Britton and the rest of the second-rate first-raters, they were lucky to earn much more than $1,000 per fight. Thus, they had to fight eight, 12, 20 times a year if they wanted to eat something better than beans on toast.

There was no TV in those days, but there were newspapers, which meant



In their first battle, Duran and Leonard traded for 15 emotional rounds in Montreal. Duran won a close but unanimous verdict and took Leonard's welterweight crown. It remains Sugar Ray's only loss.

"UNO MAS": THE PICK IS LEONARD

Given Roberto Duran's unexpectedly brilliant effort against Iran Barkley and Ray Leonard's rocking-chair performance against Thomas Hearns, picking a winner of Leonard-Duran III has become as difficult as guessing Madonna's next hair color. Before their prior bouts, Leonard would have been a prohibitive favorite against Duran, and only those thinking with their hearts and not their heads would have predicted a Duran victory. In Las Vegas on December 7, however, a faded Leonard will answer the opening bell as the favorite, but perhaps by odds of only 2-1. It will be the third time in three fights that he'll be the slight betting choice against Duran.

With his chin no longer shatterproof and his defense suffering from the inevitable decline of his reflexes, Leonard seems more vulnerable than ever before. He claims he was flat against Hearns, and that he was not mentally tuned. What the bout with Duran should prove is whether Leonard has been fooling us, or only himself.

Duran remains a mixed bag at middleweight, a warrior with the ability to absorb and return punishment, but only if he's fighting with emotion. A disinterested Duran is an ugly sight, but as he proved against Barkley in February, a motivated Duran can thrill a crowd like no other champion since Ali.

The X-factor in this battle is Duran's condition. He will again trim at least 25 pounds from his frame, which belongs to a welterweight, not a middleweight. Was the rebound against Barkley a one-shot wonder, or can the 38-year-old Panamanian sufficiently harden his body one more time?

Look for a tempo that befits the fighters' ages. Duran won't attack with ferocity and force an infight, as he did in Montreal, and Leonard won't skip to a jazzy beat, as he did in New Orleans. The fighters will box, and the heaviest hitting will happen on the occasions when they stand flatfooted and challenge each other's deteriorating defenses. For Leonard to triumph, he'll have to outpunch Duran in volume, muscle him at close range, and score often with his jab. For Duran to triumph, he'll have to control the timing of the exchanges, land his counter right, and, most importantly, feel the adrenaline racing through his veins. Both will enjoy moderate success.

History reveals that Duran only surprises us once every few years. The pick is Leonard in what will undoubtedly be a distance fight.

—Steve Farhood

that word got around about some of the more important bouts—but it got around several days after the fact, with no videotape highlights. So if Britton and Lewis had a pretty good scrap in New York, well, the same matchup might sell pretty well in Boston, too. After that, send 'em off to Buffalo, then New Orleans, then a few other cities here and there. Make it a traveling road show, like the Kefauver hearings. It took Britton and Lewis a little time, but they eventually made a nice piece of change from all these bouts—almost as much as if they'd fought twice in modern times.

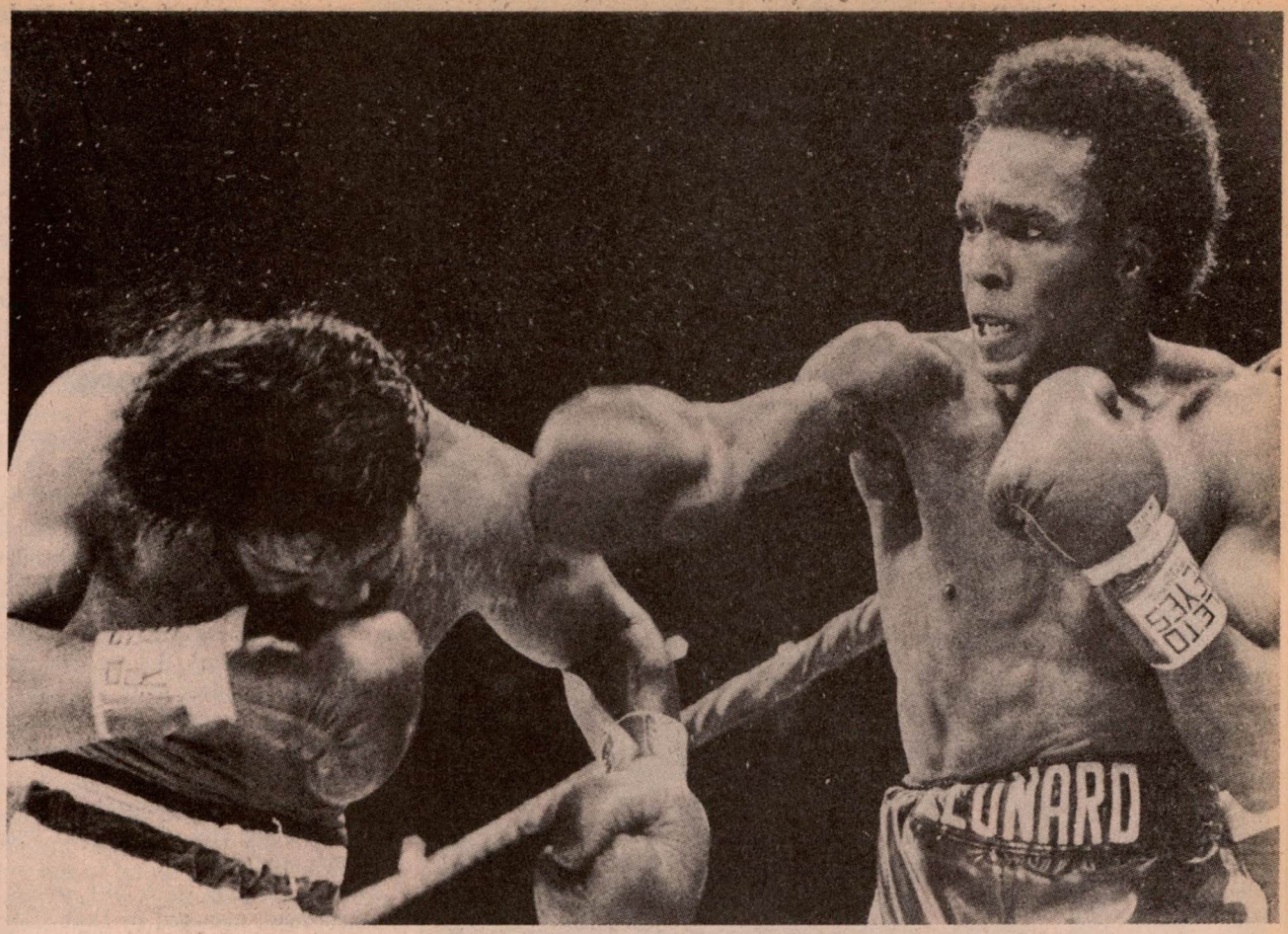
One reason they were able to do this was the no-decision rule, which was then in effect in several states, including New York. This rule was essentially instituted in order to discourage betting. It stated that any boxing match must be treated as an exhibition, and that since any match held in New York was an exhibition as opposed to an official bout, no decision could be rendered by the referee or judges. Not incidentally, if there was no decision, there was no winner, and if no winner, no bets to be paid off.

Of course, if the two fighters were in earnest, or if the betting crowd really wanted a little action, the law did no good. A knockout was still a knockout, and if a bout went the distance, bettors could agree to accept the opinion of one of several knowledgeable sportswriters and regard that opinion as an unofficial decision.

The law was finally repealed on the grounds that it didn't work and was a pain in the butt, anyway. But while it was in force, the no-decision law was a positive boon to fighters like Britton and Lewis. These two were so evenly matched that they would fight to a draw or an almost-draw every time. But if theirs were no-decision bouts, there would be real controversy over which had won, and thus real interest in seeing the two of them have it out once again.

And if, in a no-decision match, the two fighters wanted to, they could have made a gentleman's agreement not to let anyone get hurt. This happened pretty frequently. Since there was no real incentive to win, but only to look good, two fighters could make each other look as good as they pleased.

All of this is still begging for another reason why these no-decision bouts almost always went the distance: There just weren't any knockout artists in



In their second match, Leonard regained the 147-pound title with a less-than-satisfying eighth-round stoppage. Slightly behind on points, Duran turned from his foe and uttered the now-infamous words, *"No mas."*

those days. People are forever yammering on and on about how they don't make 'em like they used to, but the fact is that those old-timers just plain couldn't hit! If, say, either Battling Levinsky or Jack Dillon had possessed much of a punch, they would have fought maybe twice, certainly not 10 times. Put two fighters in the ring like Leonard and Hearns, both of whom can sock, and they just won't be able to fight each other all that frequently. They'll be too damn sore afterward.

These multibout series began to die once Jack Dempsey came on the scene and more fighters started seeking kayos. There were a few series in the '40s and '50s. Many of these involved Archie Moore, who liked to keep busy and who was forced to meet other black fighters over and over. Moore aside, though, the series concept was breathing its last by then.

One can't be sure, but let's presume that some fans would like to see those multibout series—the long ones, consisting of eight, nine, 10 fights—come back into vogue. A couple of light-hitting sharpies, Saoul Mamby and Glenwood Brown, recently fought two excellent main events against each other at New York's Felt Forum. Whoever saw those bouts would no doubt love to see three or four more.

As for fighters like Leonard and Duran, it may not be as important for the two of them to fight *each other.* Those of us who can remember back that far will recall that their first two bouts were pretty good, but they were a long way from being really great fights (especially Leonard-Duran II). But both Leonard and Duran have been involved in great fights with other opponents. They're both respected for their contributions to boxing, but neither of them is really loved. Duran shamed himself with his infamous *no mas,* and for all the hype and glitz that has surrounded Sugar Ray, he is not an object of adoration and veneration the way Muhammad Ali or Ray Robinson were. In fact, he's not even loved the way Carmen Basilio or Billy Graham or Bennie Briscoe were loved.

Fighters like Basilio, Graham, and Briscoe made their reputations not with a handful of superbouts, but with a lot of somewhat less significant bouts, by traveling all over the world and letting the average fan see them up close.

Remember when Chris Evert recently played her last U.S. Open tennis tournament? It was almost Holy Week at the National Tennis Center. That was a really special moment; even people who didn't give a damn about tennis were tuning in to see her. And why? Not because she had had two great matches against Billie Jean King and three against Martina Navratilova and a couple more against Evonne Goolagong. No, it was all those little matches sandwiched in between the big ones.

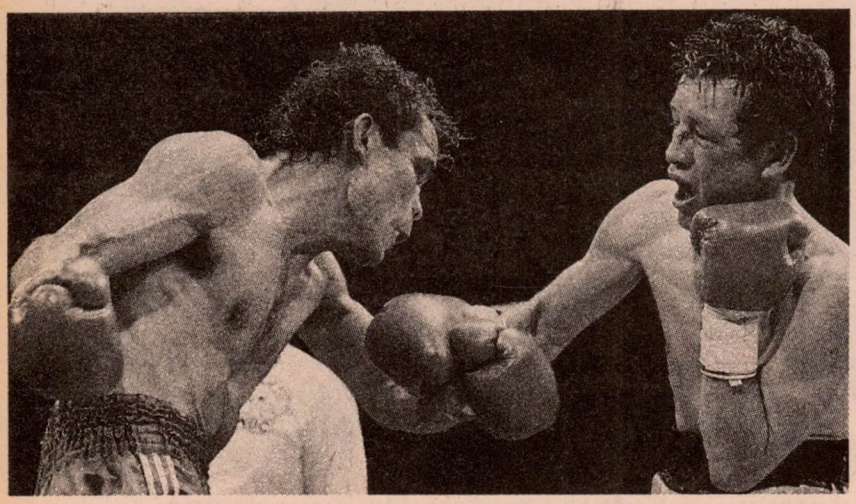
Leonard and Duran will each retire for good one day, and when they do, they'll leave the same hole you produce by putting your foot into a bucket of water. It's easy enough to come up with a heavily hyped superbout, or even a three-bout series. It's a little harder to produce several first-rate performances every year.

But that's how a *true* legend becomes a true legend. □

(Joseph D'O'Brian is a freelance writer based in Manhattan.)

RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH
Daniel Zaragoza



Zaragoza pummels an overmatched Frankie Duarte

WBC super bantamweight champion Daniel Zaragoza will never inspire chants of "May-hee-co, May-hee-co" in the manner that Mexican legends Pipino Cuevas, Ruben Olivares, and Julio Cesar Chavez have done. But the lanky southpaw has won world titles in two weight classes, bantamweight and junior featherweight, and he has quietly established himself as the finest 122-pounder in boxing. Mexican fans may not chant his name, but they've come to speak of it with respect.

Defending against faded Californian Frankie Duarte at the Great Western Forum in Inglewood, California, Zaragoza probably didn't need to be perfect. Nonetheless, he boxed brilliantly, utilizing the full ring to minimize the aggressive Duarte's offensive success, and countering again and again with his damaging straight left. Zaragoza won every round until referee Dr. James Jen Kin saved Duarte from further punishment in the 10th round.

Zaragoza has progressed dramatically since losing a pair of fights to Harold Petty in 1982 and 1983. He's an unspectacular workman, and his ring history indicates that while he'll continue to defeat good opponents, his reign will likely end as soon as he meets an exceptional fighter. (He's already lost to Happy Lora and Jeff Fenech.) Meanwhile, the champion from Mexico City continues to register successful defenses.

It's time to appreciate him.

On the Zaragoza-Duarte undercard: 1984 Olympian Paul Gonzales, 118, now campaigning as a bantamweight, unanimously outpointed Armando Castro, 118, over 12 rounds; comebacking Ruben Castillo, overweight at 136, was sent to the hospital after being stopped by a bodypunch from Edgar Castro, 136, in the sixth round; Gerardo Mercado, 130, kayoed Joe Davila, 130, in two; John Chavez, 126, won a six-round decision over Joe Martinez, 126; Mario Solario, 147, scored a five-round decision over Damon Franklin, 147; Ben Contreras, 140, won a split four-rounder over Ernesto Tobias, 140; Vicente Lopez, 152, stopped Carl Poloncak, 152, in the second.
(8-31-89)

MELDRICK TAYLOR-COURTNEY HOOPER

ATLANTIC CITY—Few expected much of Hooper, challenger for Taylor's IBF junior welterweight crown. But for a guy who barely won a round, Hooper made one of the best lopsided fights in recent memory. It was like a long goal-line stand for Taylor, whose prodigious skills kept Hooper from scoring. But the final tally was a poor reflection of the game. The clue was revealed in a prefight comment by Taylor's perceptive trainer, George Benton.

"He doesn't do anything, you know," Benton said of Hooper, "but he comes to fight."

Though bringing in a 24-1 record, the challenger, managed by Leon Corradi and trained by Greg Coverson, could list only a win over Howard Stewart as a major credit. Also, he had been inactive. No wonder he observed, "Probably the only person who expects me to win is me."

The titlist, on the other hand, was getting anointed with a vigorous local press campaign to ensconce him as "the best fighter in the world, pound for pound."

The first round quickly established the personalities of the fighters. Eschewing any formalities, the two ripped into each other toe to toe. Taylor, 140, Philadelphia, was relaxed just shy of disdain, as he outsped Hooper with dazzling combinations. The challenger, 139½, Detroit, however, waded into Taylor like he believed more in himself than in the champion's clippings.

Taylor's casual style lasted only into the second, when his excellent defense nevertheless let through a hook, then a right, which jolted him into a look of surprise. Circling away, then regrouping with a flourish, Taylor was met with what was to be another recurring problem, a low blow. The challenger certainly wasn't giving him the respect he deserved, and the crowd warmed to

what obviously wasn't going to be a blowout.

Hooper bored in with a series of clubbing rights in the third, nicking Taylor's left eye a bit, as the electric encounter at Caesars Circus Maximus settled in for the duration. The fighters seemed to realize that neither was going anywhere, and that they couldn't sustain the punishing, inside trading indefinitely. Taylor dictated the remaining terms, alternately circling and countering, then standing his ground in explosive exchanges. All the while, Hooper just kept coming.

As the end came in sight, the favorite broke for the finish, with the underdog in hot pursuit. By the 11th, the excitement had become so infectious that between exchanges, both fighters threw their arms aloft in victory.

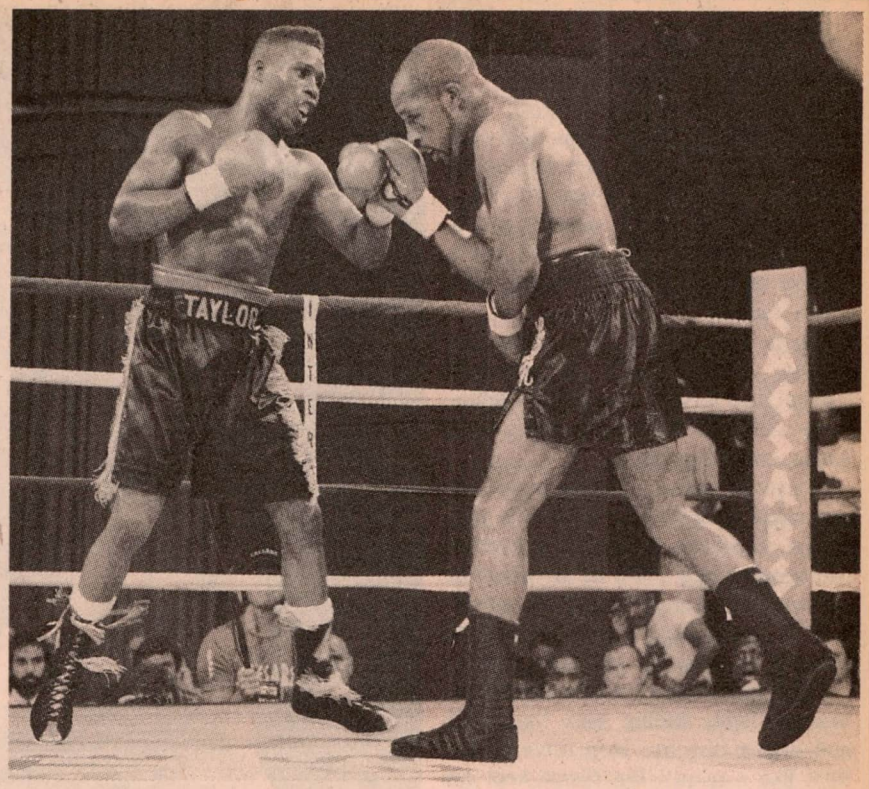
Explained Hooper, "I hurt him, and I was trying to intimidate him, hoping he'd make mistakes, but he didn't. He kept his poise."

Well, almost. Another groin shot had Taylor turning away, only to be whacked in the back of the head. The flagrant rules violation sent Lou Duva into one of his classic red-faced tirades, which have become an anticipated part of the fun.

The final round was an extended curtain call, as the fans cheered and the fighters played to the noise. Tony Wolfe (Pennsylvania) and Gary Merritt (Indiana) both voted 118-110, and local judge John Stewart had it 117-111, all for the champion. Frank Cappuccino refereed.

Such a crowd-pleaser would normally be a plus for *both* fighters, but it was Hooper who gained yardage. Taylor's command of the high ground has made his own act tough to follow. Supporters were relieved that he showed no effects of the arthroscopic surgery on his left knee from earlier this year, but Hooper revealed that Taylor's reputation may be a step ahead of his actual development. We'll find out for sure when he battles WBC champion Julio Cesar Chavez in a unification match.

From the sublime to the ridiculous: The scheduled 10-rounder between Art Tucker, 215, Newark, and Kimmuel Odum, 244, Gary, Indiana, was almost as exciting as Taylor-Hooper, but for all the wrong reasons. The out-of-shape heavies went on a rock-'em, sock-'em binge, lurching and swinging for the rafters, missing when they should have landed, and landing when they should have missed. Little wonder such action produced an upset, with Odum knocking out ABC-TV producer Peter Heller's 16-0-1 protege from the unbeaten ranks with a kayo at 1:02 of the ninth.



Meldrick Taylor brawls with Courtney Hooper

Tucker fought well until surprised by a right in the third. Another sneak right floored him in the sixth, after which he ran out of gas. He got dropped in the eighth, and was left facedown on the canvas in the ninth. Referee was Randy Neumann.

Mike Grable, 139¾, Detroit, managed a majority decision over Lopez Javier Chavez, 140½, New York City, in a bloody but poorly fought six. Referee: Neumann.

1988 Olympian Romallis Ellis, 141, Atlanta, TKO'd overmatched Tony King, 135, Cincinnati, who was getting clocked until 1:04 of the second of a scheduled six. Referee was Ted Pick.

"Jesse" James Leija. 128, San Antonio, TKO'd a disorganized Jaime Castellano, 126½, Tampa, at 1:38 of the third of a scheduled six. Castellano was down in the first, then twice in the third, a hook to the ribs finishing him. Referee: Pick.

In a battle of southpaws, Fernando Rodriguez, 123, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, KO'd poor Curtis Dockery, 125, Cincinnati, at 1:57 of the first in a scheduled four. Curtis took a standing eight, then was planted by a left. Referee: Neumann.

Promoter: Dan Duva (Main Events-/Monitor Productions)

Matchmaker: Johnny Bos

Attendance: 1,100

TV: SportsChannel America

Judges: (undercard): Frank Brunette, Richard F. Murry, Deborah Barnes

Timekeeper: Roosevelt Gilbert

Ring Announcer: Jimmy Marotta

(9-11-89)

J.R. Jowett

LORETO GARZA-FRANKIE WARREN

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA—Local junior welterweight Loreto Garza won the biggest fight of his career, whipping Frankie Warren over 12 rounds for the USBA junior welterweight championship.

Garza, who had never gone more than nine rounds, fought the last five stanzas against Warren with a closed right eye. Despite the hideous-looking injury—reminiscent of Carmen Basilio's closed eye in his second fight with Ray Robinson—the lanky Garza kept the squat Warren under control with jabs and straight rights. Garza wobbled Warren in the fifth, ninth, and 10th rounds, but couldn't floor the stubborn Texan.

Garza, 139, won by scores of 116-112, 116-112, and 118-110. *The Ring* scored it 117-111 for Garza.

Warren, 137, Corpus Christi, suffered a detached retina in his right eye, and doctors have told him he should not fight again. The 30-year-old Warren, should he retire, would have a final 30-2 record. He was the IBF's number-one contender entering the Garza fight.

Garza, now 25-1, awaits a title shot against WBA junior welterweight champ Juan Coggi. The fight is tentatively scheduled for Sacramento's Arco Arena on December 2.

Warren's trainer, Lou Duva, was impressed enough with Garza to predict a knockout for the Sacramento native over Coggi. "I'll fly anywhere in the world to see it," said Duva, still seething over Coggi's two pullouts of title defenses against Warren.

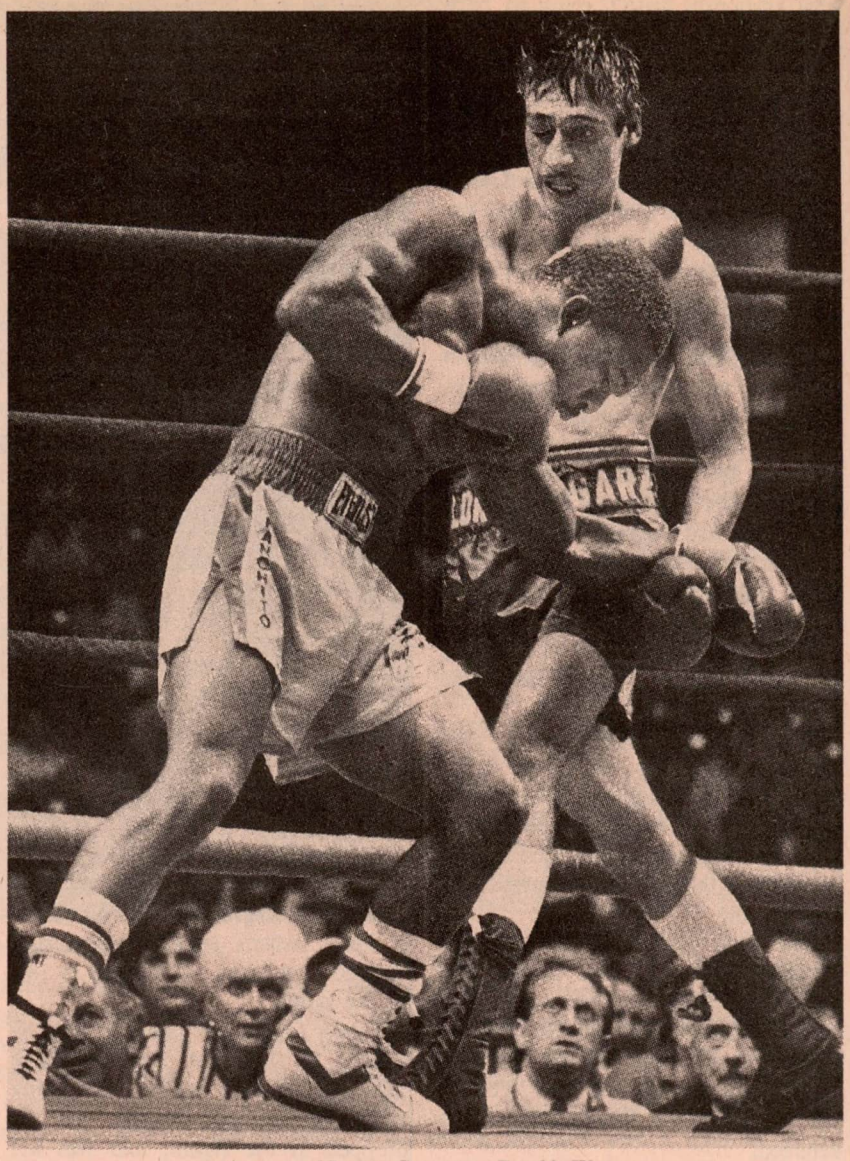
Duva tried to rattle Garza during the Warren fight, calling him "gutless," and urging him to "stop running and fight like a man." But Garza kept his cool and stuck with his plan of keeping Warren at bay with jabs.

On the undercard, Richard Duran, 123, Sacramento, scored his fifth first-round knockout in as many fights, halting Javier Torres, 125, of Los Angeles, at 1:54. The baby-faced Duran, owner of a wicked left hook and a mean demeanor, was staggered early in the round by a right, but showed he could box a bit to get out of trouble before lowering the boom. Torres was down twice.

Tim Brooks, 139, Sacramento, looked ordinary in taking a unanimous six-round decision over Jorge Hernandez, 140, Bakersfield. Brooks is now 18-6 (16). Hernandez is a reported 28-11 (13).

In his first fight in the United States, Miguel Arrozol, 126, Philippines, showed little boxing ability but a lot of power in taking a majority eight-round decision over slick Jorge Rodrigues, 127½, Los Angeles. Arrozol was down in the second round, Rodrigues in the sixth. Arrozol rose to 25-1 (16). Rodrigues' record was announced at 19-11-1 (9), though other recordkeepers have him at about 14-15-1 (2).

Jose Garcia, 147, Los Angeles, stopped Nick Kakouris, 147, St. Louis, at 1:36 of the first round. Kakouris, a former amateur star now being handled by Main Events, drops to 4-2. Lou Duva has asked Kakouris to retire. Garcia improves to 3-0.



A one-eyed Loreto Garza tops Frankie Warren

Ray Lovato, 137, Sacramento, stopped Robert Olivera, 139, San Diego, at 1:16 of the first. Olivera was down once. Lovato is 2-0 (1).

Promoter: Don Chargin Productions
Attendance: 2,241
Gate: $62,560
Timekeeper: Clay Worthey
Announcer: Jim Hall
(8-12-89)

Eric Bottjer

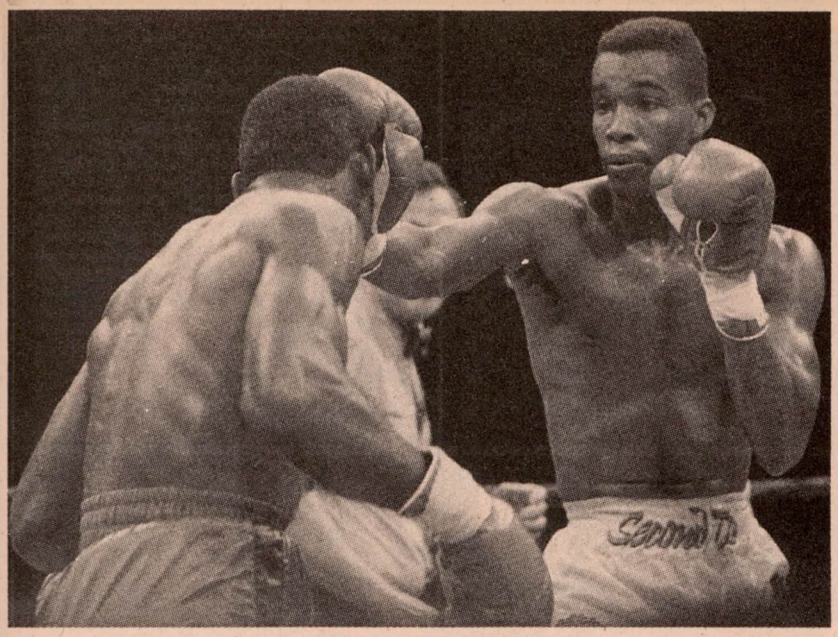
MICHAEL NUNN-IRAN BARKLEY

RENO, NEVADA—Michael Nunn, boxing's alleged million-dollar baby, came up with a five-and-dime store performance in his latest public exposure, and it cost him future association with Top Rank promotions, at least for the moment.

The 26-year-old Nunn is still the undefeated IBF middleweight champion, thanks to a majority 12-round decision, but it was gutty Iran Barkley who won the evening in Lawlor Events Center on the University of Nevada-Reno campus.

Bob Arum, Top Rank's resident chairman in Las Vegas, obviously expected any world champion going off as an 11-1 favorite with the state's licensed bookmakers to win spectacularly. It was bad enough that Nunn struggled to improve his record to 34-0 (23), but when Arum counted the house at 5,453 paid (the live gate was $465,600) in a venue designed to accommodate 12,000-plus, the promoter insisted that in the future, he didn't need a $1.25-million lemon. That's the paycheck Nunn collected for making his third defense of the title he won from Frank Tate.

A lot of people, including Arum and Nunn's managerial gang at Ten Goose



Michael Nunn sticks Iran Barkley

stable in North Hollywood, figured they had a budding bomber on their hands. Argentina's Juan Domingo Roldan wasn't an issue against Nunn, going out in eight rounds, and the plot thickened with dynamite in March, when Nunn iced veteran Sumbu Kalambay with one left hook in the first round.

Barkley told the unmarked Nunn, "You hit like a flower," but Arum may have delivered the unkindest cut of all, declaring, "Whenever Nunn got hit, he looked like an ESPN fighter."

Barkley, 29, the former WBC middleweight ruler from the South Bronx, New York, earned $400,000 and was worth every cent of it. Though unblessed with native skills, Barkley, 160, shone as a true warrior. His swollen left eye (where scar tissue was removed last spring) never did break open, though it did seep blood sporadically. And there was nary a moment when the dancemaster Nunn, 159, ever hit him hard enough to make a trip to the canvas a possibility.

The highly hyped persona of speed merchant Nunn, originally from Davenport, Iowa, was anything but electric after the fifth round. In the official scoring, the judges only disagreed on the second, third, and 10th rounds. But had the ever-pressing Barkley, now 25-6 (16), won the 12th, the official verdict would have been a draw. The unorthodox middleweight called "The Blade" had gutted his way to win the 10th and 11th rounds while taunting the wary Nunn to "come over here and fight."

For the record, judge Glenn Hamada of Seattle saw it 115-113, while Art Lurie of Las Vegas tabbed it 116-113, both for Nunn. Keith MacDonald of Carson City called it even at 114-114. *The Ring* scored 115-114 for Nunn.

The southpaw Nunn was using his right hand almost exclusively in the early action, and ringsiders thought he had hurt his potent left. Nunn was able to score well with the jab at long range in the first three rounds, but he didn't relish the lunging Barkley grabbing him around the neck with his right forearm and hitting with the left.

Nunn's corner didn't want their charge falling into Barkley's alley-type war, but he did just that in the third round. Nunn brawled evenly until breaking off.

Nunn had perhaps his best round in the fifth, catching Barkley with lightning combinations, which drew blood from the challenger's mouth. Barkley twice grabbed Nunn behind the neck in the fifth, but referee Carlos Padilla issued no warning. After the champion snapped Iran's head back with a searing right jab, Barkley made Nunn grunt with a vicious counter hook to the body that was remembered for the rest of the night.

Nunn had another solid round in the eighth, again bloodying Barkley's mouth and bringing his bloated left eye closer to shutting. Yet, for the most part in the late rounds, Nunn was a student of caution, completely unnerved by patrons' catcalls and their endless chants of "Bark-lee! Bark-lee! Bark-lee!"

"Look, those boos meant nothing to me," Nunn said. "I'm 34-0, I'm still a champion. I knew Barkley would give me a tough fight. Look what he did to Tommy Hearns and then that fight with Duran. Iran's a strong fighter, but I felt I won the fight hands down. I beat him on the inside and he never hurt me once. I'm not worried about the public, I'm only out to satisfy me, Michael Nunn."

Barkley praised Nunn, but added, "I know in my heart I didn't lose. I fought a great fight and Mike fought a great fight. Nunn [ran] all night long because he knew he'd be dead if he ever caught my right."

Manager Emanuel Steward, who is dickering to match Thomas Hearns with Nunn next spring at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, may have summed up the evening better than anyone.

"The fight with Barkley doesn't surprise me because Michael Nunn has never been a big puncher," he said. "He was a runner early in his career, and that's what he did with Barkley. Everybody was in a big rush to make him an electrifying superstar, and he's a long way from reaching the stature of Leonard, Hearns, and Duran."

Topping the five-bout undercard, Lupe Gutierrez, 127, San Jose, California, did not risk his USBA featherweight crown in stopping Rocky Alonso, 129, Bakersfield, California, at 2:14 of the second round in a scheduled 10-rounder. Gutierrez dropped Alonso twice in the second round with combinations before referee Mills Lane of Reno abbreviated the action. The USBA champion moved to 22-2 (17), while Alonso skidded to 30-17-1 (16).

Michael Carbajal, 108, Phoenix, scored his sixth straight win as a pro, (he has five kayos) when he chilled Prudencio DeJesus, 106, at 56 seconds of the second round in a slated six-rounder. DeJesus dropped to 10-3 (6).

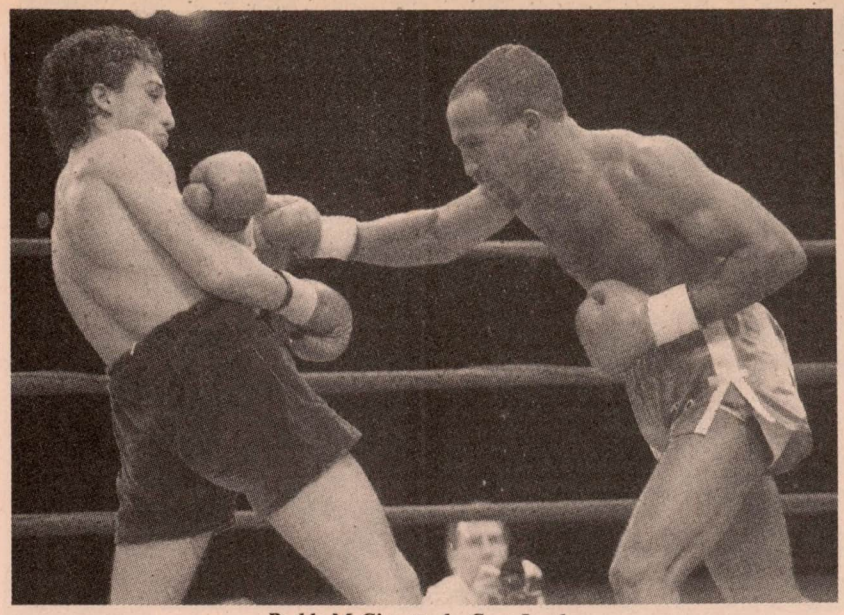
Robert Wangila, 150, Las Vegas, the 1988 Olympic welterweight gold medalist from Kenya, moved to 6-0 when he made Keith Banks, 152, Indianapolis, his third kayo victim at 36 seconds of the fourth round. Banks dropped to 8-7-2 (1).

Jesse Medina, 117, Las Vegas, scored a unanimous four-round decision over Oscar Jimenez, 118, Los Angeles. Medina is 2-0-1, Jimenez 0-2.

WBC middleweight champion Roberto Duran boxed a three-round exhibition with Danny Morgan, Indianapolis. Weights were not announced. (8-14-89)

Jack Welsh

BUDDY McGIRT-GARY JACOBS



Buddy McGirt attacks Gary Jacobs

NEW YORK—With 21 appearances at the Felt Forum, it was fitting that former junior welterweight champion McGirt would headline the final fight card at Madison Square Garden's sister arena. (The Felt Forum has closed for renovations for two years.)

The Madison Square Garden boxing department's clubshows will move to Manhattan's Beacon Theatre and several other locations, including Atlantic City.

McGirt-Jacobs, televised by NBC, was a late substitute for the WBA lightweight title fight between Edwin Rosario and Lupe Suarez, which was cancelled when Rosario suffered a hand injury. McGirt took the bout on eight days notice, and it showed. Forced to lose eight pounds in a week, he was cautious and uninspired. Still, his level of skill was more than enough to thwart the efforts of Scotland's Jacobs, a bodypunching southpaw and the reigning British Commonwealth welterweight king.

Jacobs opened the bout as he closed it, chugging forward and swallowing McGirt's jab, but only a few of his followup punches. Unable to score against a moving target, Jacobs repeatedly set himself for leverage, only to reset after McGirt would jab or step to the side.

Jacobs, 146, won only the fifth and eighth rounds on *The Ring's* scorecard. In the fifth, he finally forced McGirt to the ropes and managed a minor rally. He also persuaded McGirt to trade on the inside over the last 15 seconds of the round, and he won the exchange. In the eighth, McGirt rested and Jacobs swarmed, though the New York favorite, 148, was never in danger.

"My manager [Al Certo] said, 'Are you out there? I don't see you,' " McGirt, 44-2-1 (35), said of his effort in round eight.

In the 10th, there were flashes of the prime McGirt. He scored with a hook-right uppercut counter combination and put together his punches in fast-hand bunches, which he had failed to do for most of the fight. His final-round superiority punctuated a controlled performance and a clear-cut victory, by scores of 7-3 (George Colon), 8-2 (Barbara Perez), and 8-2 (Bill Costello). Jacobs, 25-2 (12), did not argue.

"I didn't disgrace myself whatsoever," he said.

The referee was Arthur Mercante Jr.

On the undercard, promising featherweight prospect Ricardo Cepeda, 123, Bronx, dug a hook into the side of Carlos Vergara, 126, Hartford, Connecticut, and watched as his foe crumpled at the 2:05 mark of round one. Cepeda is 13-0-1 (11). Vergara dropped to 10-3 (5). It was scheduled for 10 rounds.

In another scheduled 10-rounder, Antonio DeBarros, 139, Baltimore, boxing without manager Angelo Dundee in his corner, stopped Felix Dubray, 137, Omaha, at 2:05 of the fourth round. A right hand produced a knockdown and the stoppage. DeBarros is 16-1-1 (12). Dubray is 19-5 (9).

Aristedes Gonzalez, 176, San Juan, scored two knockdowns and kayoed Roosevelt Williams, 176, Brooklyn, at 2:52 of round one. Gonzalez, 5-1 (5), suffered a cut over his left eye before the finish. Williams is 5-2 (4). The bout was scheduled for six rounds.

Segundo Mercado, 159, Brooklyn via Ecuador, registered a spectacular one-punch, right-hand knockout over Rahim Muhammad, 160, Brooklyn, at 1:31 of round one. Mercado is 3-0 (3), and Muhammad dropped to 3-3. It was scheduled for four rounds.

Finally, in the most action-packed bout of the afternoon, Harrison Pearson, 186, a pudgy cruiserweight nicknamed "Darth Vader," scored a unanimous four-round decision in his pro debut. Pearson topped Joey Winters, 185, Smithtown, New York, by scores of 3-1, 3-1, and 4-0. Winters is 6-1 (4).

Attendance: 2,344.

(8-27-89)

Steve Farhood

PERNELL WHITAKER-JOSE LUIS RAMIREZ

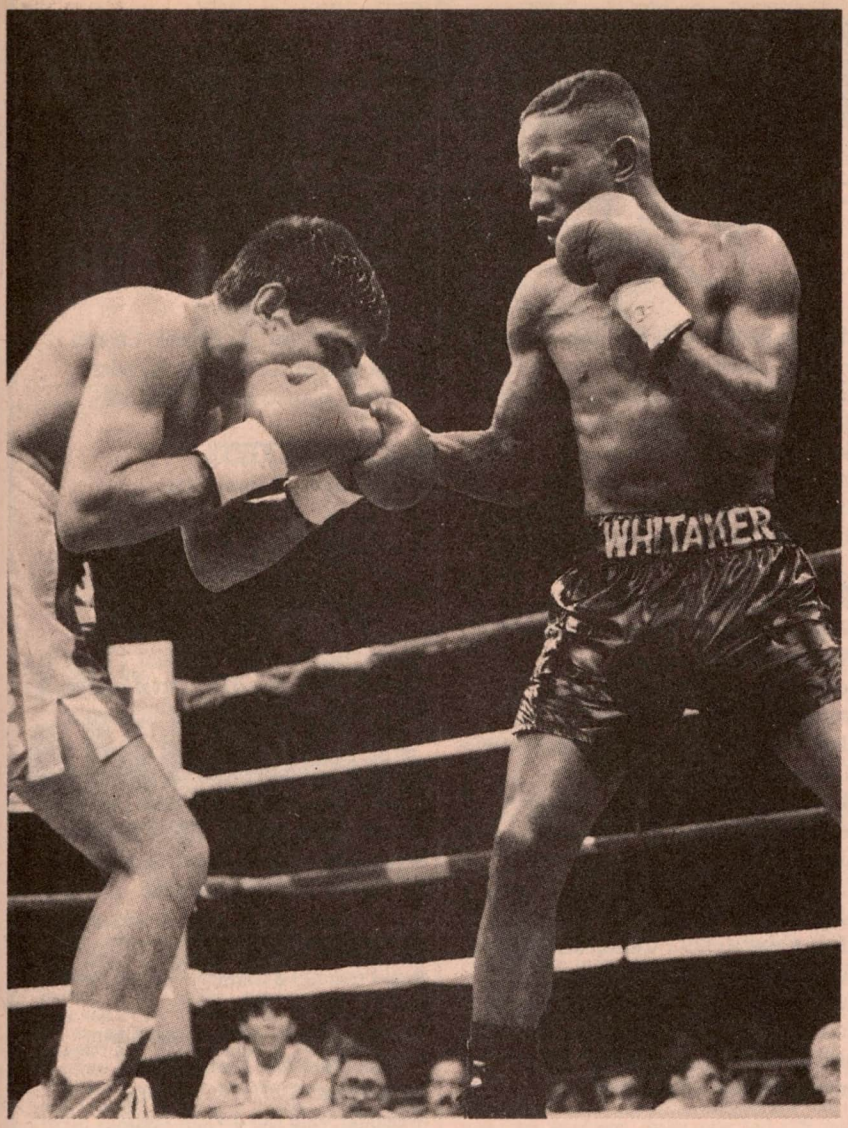
NORFOLK, VIRGINIA—This matchup, arising as it did out of the bitterness of the split decision given then-WBC champion Ramirez over challenger Whitaker more than a year ago in Paris, promised intense, fiery action. But it wasn't to be. The bout was completely one-sided, with Whitaker winning the IBF-WBC lightweight title fight by unanimous 12-round decision.

Whitaker, 134½, Norfolk, thoroughly dominated to the point of reducing Ramirez, 134, Culiacan, Mexico, to the role of straight man.

Marching forward with little imagination and creativity, Ramirez encountered the superior speed and accurate punches of Whitaker. Whitaker met Ramirez' advances with a wicked mix of punches, over and under, throughout the first three rounds. By round four, it was clear to ringsiders that Ramirez had to make a few adjustments.

He didn't.

Gathering momentum as he approached the 12th and final round, Whitaker decided to give the fans a display of showmanship. In the 11th, "Sweet Pea" was a matador without a cape, as he executed a fancy escape that left Ramirez lunging foolishly into an empty corner. He did it again in



Pernell Whitaker dominates Jose Luis Ramirez

round 12, prompting his trainer, Lou Duva, to pound the ring apron and scream to his fighter not to let the win get away.

Judges Syd Nathan and Larry O'Connell scored it 117-112 and 120-109, respectively, for Whitaker. Miguel Donate had it 120-108.

"He was a totally different fighter than in the last fight," Ramirez said. "A lot stronger, more experienced and more assured."

"He caught me with some gigantic blows," Whitaker said, "but I thought I put on a masterful show. I could've tied one hand behind my back and just gone on with the jab."

Ramirez need not worry: With cheapened titles lying around like dirty socks, a properly connected fighter need not go barefoot for long.

Southpaw Eduardo Cruz, 146½, Mexico City, TKO'd Steve Mitchell, 142, Youngstown, Ohio, at 1:34 of the third round. Mitchell took a standing eight-count before referee Al Rothenberg stopped it.

1988 Olympian Romallis Ellis, 139¼, Atlanta, battered Marvin Ladson, 149, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, into a TKO at 1:52 of round three.

Bobby McCarthy, 125, Cliffside Park, New Jersey, had trouble winning a majority decision over Godfrey Johnson, 126½, Richmond, in six rounds.

Pierre Lorcy, 134, Paris, earned a majority decision over Donnie Parker, 129, Baltimore.

Fred Norwood, 131¾, St. Louis, TKO'd David Scott, 130, Balto, Virginia, who was dropped twice in round one and again at 0:38 the second.

Promoter: Dan Duva (Main Events-Monitor Productions)

Matchmaker: Johnny Bos

Television: ABC

Judges: Oscar Bryan, Jim Traylor, and Vaughn LaPrade

Timekeepers: Louis Latham, Stanley Gold

Ring Announcer: Bruce Rader

Attendance: 7,180

(8-20-89)

J.R. Jowett

KAOSAI GALAXY-ALBERTO CASTRO

SURIN, THAILAND—Kaosai Galaxy, one of the hardest punchers ever to come out of Thailand, scored a TKO over Colombian challenger Alberto Castro at 1:46 of the 11th round to defend his WBA junior bantamweight title for the 11th time.

Galaxy is 41-1 (36), while Castro, the WBA's top contender, is 20-3-1 (14).

Galaxy, a 30-year-old southpaw, did not have an easy time of it. Castro charged out of his corner and fought toe to toe, ignoring the champion's power. Castro decked the champion in round two with a well-timed right hand. Stunned, Galaxy stumbled around on rubbery legs, but rallied in round three with a series of solid lefts that backed up the challenger.

Both fighters slugged it out in rounds four and five. But in round six, Castro landed a vicious right to Galaxy's chin. And though Galaxy was weakened, he remained upright and lashed out with body shots that stunned Castro, who had visibly slowed down.

In round 10, Galaxy kept firing body shots and, at one point, Castro turned his back on him. Moments later, ringsiders watched as Castro waved *no mas,* prompting the referee to stop the fight. At that point, Galaxy was ahead on points. Judges Samuel Conde and Roberto Ramirez penned scorecards of 87-83 for Galaxy. And judge Ryoji Kashiwagi saw it 88-82 for the defending champion.

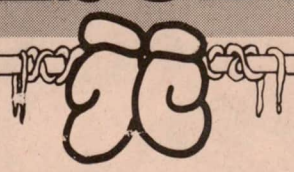
"It was the hardest fight of my career," Galaxy said.

Galaxy is scheduled for a rematch with Kenji Matsumura, ex-OPBF flyweight champion, in Kobe, Japan, on October 31. In their previous encounter, Galaxy earned a unanimous decision.

(7-29-89)

Joe Koizumi

WORLDWIDE FIGHT RESULTS



HEAVYWEIGHTS
Michael Dokes KO 3 Wesley Watson
Orlin Norris W 12 Dee Collier
Kimmuel Odum KO 9 Art Tucker
Pierre Coetzer KO 1 Bobby Hitz
Renaldo Snipes W 10 Melvin Epps
Seamus McDonagh KO 1 Tom Adams
Ray Mercer KO 1 Dino Homsey
Ray Mercer KO 1 Tracy Thomas
Tommy Morrison KO 1 Rick Enis
Tommy Morrison KO 2 Mike Robinson
Tommy Morrison KO 2 Jesse Shelby
Riddick Bowe KO 1 Lee Moore
Alex Stewart KO 3 Terry Armstrong
Seamus McDonagh KO 1 Tim Adams

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Craig Peterson W 10 Apollo Sweet

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Jaime Howe KO 3 Forest Pitts
Andrew Maynard KO 5 Carlton Williams
Andrew Maynard KO 5 Arthur Hall
Anthony Hembrick KO 4 Darryl Spain
Isaias Lucero KO 10 Guillermo Chavez

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Chris Tiozzo KO 8 Frankie Minton

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Michael Nunn W 12 Iran Barkley
(Retains IBF Title)
Pipino Cuevas KO 1 Martin Martinez
Merqui Sosa KO 5 Kenny Snow
Dennis Milton W 10 Robbie Sims
Karama Leota W 10 Earnie Valentine
Roy Jones KO 7 Ron Amundsen
Yoshiaki Tajima W 12 Udiana

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Art Serwano KO 12 Jesse Flores
Jose Bermudez KO 4 Louis Howard
Jorge Maysonet KO 1 Donald Gwinn
Giuseppe Leto KO 6 Edip Secovic

WELTERWEIGHTS
Lloyd Honeyghan W 10 Delfino Marin
Robert Wangila KO 4 Keith Banks
Aaron Davis W 10 Gene Hatcher
Mauricio Rodriguez KO 2 Daniel Felizardo
Augustin Caballero KO 4 Vincent Pettway
Fujio Ozaki W 10 Downthong Chuvatana
Gregory Clark W 10 Paul Torres
Buddy McGirt W 10 Gary Jacobs
Saoul Mamby KO 9 Gary Hinton
Young Dick Tiger W 10 Ruben Villamon
Nino LaRocca KO 2 Alfredo Costas

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Meldrick Taylor W 12 Courtney Hooper
(Retains IBF Title)
Loreto Garza W 12 Frankie Warren
Sammy Fuentes W 12 Rodolfo Aguilar
Ras-I Aluja Bramble KO 2 Harold Brazier
Frankie Randall W 10 Jerry Page
Mike Johnson W 12 Shelton LeBlanc
Wilfredo Gomez KO 2 Mario Salazar
Antonio DeBarros KO 4 Felix Dubray
Timmy Burgess W 12 Stanley Longstreet
Alfredo Rojas W 10 David Taylor
Efrem Calamati KO 7 Clinton McKenzie
Todd Foster KO 2 Art Blackmore
Romallis Ellis KO 2 Tony King
Rodney Moore W 10 Miguel Santana
Juan Ramon Santana KO 8 Brian McGinley
Rowdy Welch W 10 Bobby Nunez

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Pernell Whitaker W 12 Jose Luis Ramirez
(Wins Vacant WBC Title/Retains IBF Title)
Louie Lomeli W 10 Roland Cummings
David Gonzales W 12 Armando Baeza
Mauricio Aceves KO 10 Oscar Bejines
Poli Diaz W 12 Alain Simoes
Tunde Foster KO 4 Jesus Gallardo
Hector Lopez KO 6 Santos Moreno
Georgie Navarro KO 3 Kenny Brown
Edgar Castro KO 5 Ruben Castillo
Juan Soberanes KO 1 Jorge Gomez

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Calvin Grove W 12 Anthony English
Genaro Hernandez W 10 Felipe Orozco
Pee Wee Parker D 10 Rogelio Lopez
Irving Mitchell KO 1 Ace Miller
Kenny Baysmore Tech. Draw 10 Rogelio Lopez
Robert Byrd W 10 Jose Vidal
Dennis Cruz KO 1 Ricardo Flores
Dingaan Thobela KO 3 Danilo Cabrera
Kamel Bou-Ali KO 4 Carlos Morales
Stanley Longstreet KO 2 Rafael Solis

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Jorge Paez W 12 Stevie Cruz
(Retains IBF Title)
Troy Dorsey KO 10 Harold Rhodes
Lupe Gutierrez KO 2 Rocky Alonso
Francisco Arreola W 10 Ed Pollard
Ricardo Cepeda KO 1 Carlos Vergara
Abe Gomez W 10 Jeff Franklin
Kennedy McKinney TD 2 David Sanchez Jr.
Georgie Garcia TW 10 Jorge Rodriguez

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Daniel Zaragoza KO 10 Frankie Duarte
(Retains WBC Title)
Kenny Mitchell W 12 Simon Skosana
Ed Hopson W 6 David Moreno

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Raul Perez KO 8 Cardenio Ulloa
(Retains WBC Title)
Paul Gonzales W 12 Armando Castro
Paul Gonzales KO 1 Sergio Perez
Eddie Rangel KO 11 Mauro Diaz
Welcome Ncita KO 6 Vidal Telles

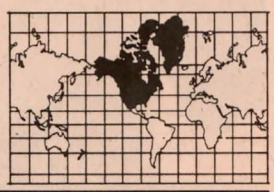
JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Gilberto Roman W 12 Santos Laciar
(Retains WBC Title)
Rolando Bohol W 12 Chungwan Chung
Robert Quirog W 12 Joey Olivo

FLYWEIGHTS
Richard Clarke W 10 Javier Juarez

LIGHT FLYWEIGHTS
Jung Koo Chang W 10 Armando Velasco
Jose Ruiz KO 1 Juan Carazo
Michael Carbajal W 8 Jose Luis Herrera
Michael Carbajal KO 2 Prudencio DeJesus
Luis Monzote W 10 Alberto Cantu

STRAWWEIGHTS
Kim Bong Jun W 12 Lee Sam Jung
(Retains WBA Title)
Rey Hernandez W 10 Santiago Mendez

The RING AROUND THE WORLD



NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

CALIFORNIA

►**SACRAMENTO**—California lightweight champ **David Gonzales** overcame a badly bruised left hand and a tougher-than-expected challenge from Armando Baeza to pound out a 12-round majority decision at the Raddison Hotel. Baeza, 134, Norwalk, was an unknown quantity, even with his number one ranking in the state. He proved to be an energetic and elusive opponent. He was equal to Gonzales in grit, but not in skills and power, and that was the difference. Baeza's effort won over the crowd, which booed the decision. The uneven scores were 115-115, 117-111, and 120-110. *The Ring* had it 115-113 for Gonzales. The fight was fast-paced and bloody, with Gonzales cut in the corner of his right eye from a butt in the first round and Baeza suffering the same injury in the fourth. Both men were inexhaustible and threw hundreds of punches. Gonzales, 135, San Jose, hurt his foe on several occasions, most notably in the ninth and 12th rounds with left hooks, but couldn't score a knockdown.

"I hurt my hands in the second or third round, so I couldn't be as aggressive as I wanted to," said Gonzales, as he soaked his left hand in ice after the fight. "He was a tough guy. Real awkward with his head movement." Gonzales will wear a cast on his left hand for two to three weeks. He is now 23-1-1 (16). Baeza is 13-4-1 (5).

On the undercard, Richard Duran, 124, Sacramento, won his sixth consecutive fight with a first-round knockout of Margarito Ruiz.

Rowdy Welch, 138, Reno, went to 10-0 with a 10-round majority decision over Bobby Nunez, 138¼, Sacramento. Scores were 95-95, 96-95, and 96-93. Nunez fell behind early and was outclassed skillwise. But he did make a gutty comeback in the later rounds. He was penalized a point by referee Hank Elespuru for hitting after the bell concluding the third round. Nunez is now 18-8 (11).

Henry Rodriguez, 128, Sacramento, stopped Ralph Aviles, 126¾, Honolulu, at 1:49 of the seventh round in a scheduled eight-rounder. Rodriguez is now 17-3 (13). Aviles fell to 22-5 (14). There were no knockdowns.

Also, Roger Orliento, 163, Reno, stopped Jorge Rodriguez, 162, Los Angeles, at 2:34 of the third round in a scheduled six. There were no knockdowns.

Rudy Aguera, 126, Sacramento, won a four-round majority decision over Rogelio Perez, 124¾, San Diego.

Promoter: Don Chargin Promotions
Attendance: 582
Gate: $12,992
Officials: Pros Montano, Joan Ortega, Terry Smith, Hank Elespuru
Timekeeper: Clay Worthey
Announcer: Jim Hall
(8-28-89)

Eric Bottjer

CONNECTICUT

►**BRIDGEPORT**—The Hilton—Boxing isn't just Mike Tyson, or, for that matter, great clubshows at Philadelphia's Blue Horizon. It can also be tucked-away affairs, nearly invisible from fans and record-keepers alike. For the benefot of close friends and family, a small ballroom was rented for the purpose of a four-round main event starring **Tim Tsopanides**, 203, of nearby (in Connecticut, is anything *that* far away from anything else?) Milford.

Tsopanides took the unanimous verdict over Ruben Cardona, 191, Bridgeport, in a no-knockdown affair. (Connecticut doesn't announce scoring.) While the stocky winner was slow of hand and foot, he at least put crude but effective bodypunches together in coping with a grab-and-hold opponent who offered little offense. The referee was Matt Mullaney.

The star of the undercard was John Scully, 165½, Windsor. After suffering his initial setback in Atlantic City on July 11, Scully looked ragged in posting a six-round unanimous decision over Victor King, 163, Bridgeport. Scully, now 14-1 (12), put down King in the fifth with a right to the body. The referee was Duke Lawson.

The class of the ntire show as Kevin Pompey, 148, Troy, New York. Pompey, listed now as 14-2-1, showed some smooth moves and purposeful punching to take apart an outclassed Frankie Harris, 145, Norwalk, taking the scheduled four-rounder by TKO at 1:09 of the second. There were no knockdowns. The referee was Lou Bogash.

In a scheduled six, Jose Torres, 151½, Hartford, won by TKO at 2:52 of the second over Antonio Rivera, 159, Albany, New York. Torres got off the deck in the first to administer a standing eight-count on Rivera in round two. Referee Bogash later stopped the bout.

Jose Beato, 111, Hartford, took a four-round split decision over Derrick Sheppard, 104, Norwalk. Both boxers were very willing to entertain. The referee was Walt Longo.

In a wild and ungainly matchup, Greg Cadiz, 139½, Hartford, won by TKO in the third when Sigfredo Vargas, 137½, Waterbury, Connecticut, was unable to come out for the final round. The ending was due to a cut in the corner of the left eye suffered by Vargas in round two. The referee was Longo.

Promoter: Big T (Danny Katmanides)
Matchmaker: Larry Katmanides
Attendance: 240 (estimated)
(8-25-89)

Jack Obermayer

KENTUCKY

►**BRANDENBURG**—Meade County Skateland—**Mark Carrier**, 215, Bristol, TN, KO'd Tony Deward, 209, Cincinnati, at 1:10 of the fourth round.

Hard-hitting Kenny Heflin, 165, Louisville, KO'd Richard Haggard, 169, Cincinnati, at 1:54 of the second round.

Benny Rosales, 165, Knoxville, KO'd Perry Adams, 158, Louisville, at 0:54 of the third round after a good scrap.

Combacking Tim Payton, 158, Louisville, KO'd Steve Chaney, 162, Cincinnati, in the second round.

Promoter: Ray Cottrell
Referees: T. O'Brian, C. Sayre
Physician: M. Wheeler
(7-14-89)

►**ERLANGER**—Six scheduled six-rounders ended in six knockouts.

Mark Brannon, 137, Indianapolis, TKO'd Kelvin Wilson, 135, Gary, IN, at 1:09 of the third round.

Graig Houk, 142, Greenburg, IN, TKO'd James Ray, 135, Jackson, MS, at 2:05 of the fourth round.

John Morton, 200, Covington, KY, TKO'd William Jarvis, 200, at 2:29 of the fifth round.

Terry Southerland, 130, Cincinnati, TKO'd Mike Bell, 130, Indianapolis, at 2:49 of the fifth round.

Paul Phillips, 175, Covington, KO'd Eddie Alexander, 178, Des Moines, at 2:36 of the third round.

Kevin Daigle, 150, Bedford, KY, TKO'd Kenny Williams, 148, Memphis, at 2:05 of the second round.

Promoter: KO Productions
Referee: Clarence Nailton
Judges: C. Sayre, J. Kerns, C. Nailton Sr.
Physician: David Suetholtz
(7-10-89)

►**ERLANGER**–In another all knockout show, six bouts ended in one-round knockouts.

In the so-called main event, Cincinnati's **Anthony Green**, 200, kayoed Wesley Watson, 225, Bristol, TN, in just 1:45 of the first round of a scheduled 10-rounder.

In another quicky, Kevin Daigle, 155, Bedford, KY, starched Cincinnati's Jarvis Barnes, 154, at 1:38 of the first round of a scheduled eight-rounder.

Nate Tubbs, 205, Cincinnati, iced Rodney Bolden, 205, Cincinnati, at 2:18 of the first.

Terry Sutherland, 135, Cincinnati, dispatched Mark Jones, 138, Cincinnati, at 1:40 of the first. The Kentucky Athletic Commission handed Jones a one-year suspension for his dismal effort.

Glen Modicue, 154, Opeloosa, LA, dismissed Cincinnati's Gerald Moore, 165, at 1:45 of the first.

In another all-Cincinnati farce, Pat Simeon, 128, kayoed Larry Shelton, 130, at 1:16 of the first.

Promoter: KO Productions
(6-12-89)

ILLINOIS

►**CHICAGO**—Riviera Club—Argentina's **Pedro Decima**, 122½, pounded out a 10-round unanimous decision over Nigerian champion Joe Orewa, 120½, by scores of 47-44, 47-43, and 48-42.

Orewa, based in Los Angeles, boxed well and tried hard, but Decima ultimately proved too strong. A powerful right to the body floored Orewa in the fourth. Though he lasted the distance, Orewa's nose was bloodied, his left eye cut and swollen.

Decima raised his slate to 23-2 (16), while Orewa fell to 15-2.

Kenny Gould, 150, Chicago, won a lopsided six-round decision over Torrance Martin, 149, Chicago.

Gabriel Ruelas, 127, Van Nuys, California, won a six-round unanimous decision over Randy Reedy, 128, Terre Haute, IN. Ruelas, a prospect to watch, upped his log to 12-0.

Jerry Goff, 210, Saucier, Minnesota, outpointed Brian Morgan, 202, Fort Wayne, IN, over four rounds to up his record to 4-0.

Jesse Torres, 131, Aurora, IL, TKO'd Garry Stallworth, 133, at 2:59 of the third round.

Rafael Ruelas, 122, Van Nuys, KO'd Ben Gomez, 120, Durango, Mexico, at 2:11 of the third round, improving his log to 6-0.

Promoter: Nick Nedeau/Telemundo
Matchmakers: Jack Cowen, Pete Susens
Referees: Stan Berg, Tim Adams
Judges: Mike Glienna, Gino Rodrigiuez, Bill Lerch, Collins Brown
Timekeeper: Al Tremari
Attendance: 225
(7-14-89)

MAINE

►**OLD ORCHARD BEACH**—The Ballpark—The boxing backwater of Maine is verging on a return to the glory(?) days of Ali-Liston. Only this time, the product is home grown, and doesn't slink away under a cloud of scandal. Lewiston sensation **Joey Gamache** headlined an eventful holiday weekend

card held outdoors at this picturesque seaside resort, which promoters billed as the "Battle of the Beach."

Gamache's opponent, Canadian champ Johnny Kalbhenn, offered about as good a pairing as the unbeaten youth could want at this stage of his career.

"I consider myself a blue-collar boxer," said the invader on his way into town. "When one of those guys goes to a fight and spends 20 bucks, they don't want to see a one-round fight." And they didn't. Kalbhenn, 133, New Hamburg, Ont., took Gamache, 133, 10 furious rounds before losing a unanimous verdict.

Though Gamache won handily, the local hero had to fight his tail off in a fight that featured interesting tactical adaptations by both fighters. Realizing he couldn't outbox the quicker and shifty Gamache, Kalbhenn made the right move and tried to outmuscle his opponent in a brawl.

In the third round a shiver went through the crowd when Gamache suffered a badly cut left eye. Gamache protected the eye by fighting in reverse, picking apart his charging rival with peppery counters. Gamache took more and more control as the battle rumbled to a finish. But the bloodied Kalbhenn was on him to the end, with both careening through the ropes in the frenzied 10th.

Judge Bob Morley tabbed it 100-90 for Gamache, while judges George Gendron and James Dougherty voted 99-92 and 97-90, respectively. The referee was Marc Landry.

In a battle for the vacant New England heavyweight title, Manny Contreras, 215, Coventry, RI, stopped Kevin Gilmore, 225, Bath, ME, at 2:30 of the fifth round. It was a crude, entertaining mixup, with Contreras cut and falling behind when he floored Gilmore twice with booming rights.

Pat Ireland, Springfield, MA, 164, decked Manny Madera, 150, Lowell, MA, in the first, but had to settle for a unanimous decision in a hard-fought six-rounder.

Frankie Di Orio, 137, Somerville, MA, dished out heavy punishment to Mario Coronado, 137, Monterrey, Mexico, scoring a KO at 1:51 of the fourth round.

Bernard Boisvert, 147, Auburn, ME, seemed lucky to get a unanimous win over Rafael Rodriguez, Springfield, in a action-packed four-rounder. A draw would have been a better verdict.

Jose Arias, 143, Providence, RI, floored Jose Verna, Bridgeport, CN, in the first and proceeded to bomb away for a TKO victory at 1:47 of the fourth round.

Promoters: Johnny Bos & Joe Gamache Sr.
Matchmaker: Johnny Bos
Timekeeper: Norm DeGrasse
TV: SportsChannel America
Attendance: 2,355
(7-3-89)

J.R. Jowett

MARYLAND

►**BALTIMORE**—Philadelphia promoter J. Russell Peltz teamed with Tommy Rothe of Baltimore Professional Bouts to showcase his world-ranked fighter, Vincent Pettway, ranked sixth by the IBF.

The 23-year-old welterweight had been quite active at one point in his career, but almost two years had passed since he had had a chance to display his talents before in his hometown.

But as Thomas Wolff said, "You can't go home again." The author's maxim rang true as **Augustin Caballero**, 145, Los Angeles, knocked out Pettway, 29-3 (24) at 2:49 of round four in a scheduled 10-round bout.

Pettway, 147½, who may have broken a bone in his right foot during first-round action, suddenly found himself a stationary target. By round four, Caballero crushed him with a left uppercut that sent Pettway reeling backward. He quickly followed with a right, and Pettway crashed to the floor. Pettway stayed put as referee Larry Barrett counted 10.

"I couldn't step like I wanted to," Pettway said afterward. "My right foot totally left me. I couldn't really throw anything. I couldn't get the leverage.

Fighting for the vacant Maryland junior welterweight title, Eddie Van Kirk, 140, raised his record to 18-5 (10) by knocking down Keith "The Diamond" Grimes five times en route to a seventh-round TKO. Grimes, 135, is 9-3-1 (7). He had nothing on his punches, and action was stopped by referee Frank Kelly at 2:58 of round seven.

After absorbing stiff left jabs for three rounds, Frankie "The Godfather" D'Orio, 137, Clearwater, Florida, raised his record to 19-2 (16) when Junior "El Coqui" Rodrigues, 136¼, Norwalk, Connecticut, could not answer the bell for the sixth round of their scheduled eight-rounder. Rodrigues is 4-9.

Cedric "Main Man" Mingo, 127, Charlotte, North Carolina, won a six-round unanimous decision over "Dynamite" Donnie Parker, 127, Baltimore. Mingo improves to 9-3 (4), while Parker plummets to 8-24.

After being knocked down twice in round one, light heavyweight Fabian Garcia, 174, Rockville, Maryland, rallied to stop Jake "The Snake" Smith, 171½, Arbutus, Maryland, at 1:56 of round three. Garcia, who is 2-3 (2), knocked down Smith three times.

Timothy Davis, 160, Baltimore, even his record at 2-2, winning a four-round split decision over Eric Michaelson, 161, Laurel, Maryland, who made his professional debut.

In heavyweight action, Charles Dread, 216, Laurel, and Marlon "Jackhammer" Wilson, 195, Hillcrest Heights, Maryland, battled to a four-round majority draw. Wilson is 0-1, while Dread is 1-1-1.

Promoters: Peltz Boxing Promotions, Baltimore Professional Bouts, Inc.
Matchmaker: Johnny Bos
Timekeeper: Izzy Bach
Announcer: Frank Piantini
Judges: Frank Kelly, Tom Kelly, Ray Klingmeyer, Larry Barrett, Milton Greene, Terry Moore
Television: SportsChannel America
Attendance: 900
(8-14-89)

Frank Blumstein

MASSACHUSETTS

►**TAUNTON**—Roseland Ballroom—For the first time since 1984, there is a New England champion, and for the first time ever, there is a belt to go with the title. **Dave Rivello** of nearby Attleboro won a 10-round unanimous decision, with all scorecards 99-94, over Holyoke's Julio DeJesus to earn recognition as New England lightweight champion.

The various New England titles had laid dormant since May 1984, when then-middleweight titlist Robbie Sims had defended his crown against junior middleweight champ Danny Long on ESPN. Now the Massachusetts Boxing Commission, and promoter Doug Pendarvis, have spearheaded a movement to revive the regional titles, starting by declaring the titles of all divisions vacant. For the first time, championship belts are awarded to the title-winning fighters, and Rivello is thus the first boxer so honored.

Rivello, 135, had been inactive for nearly two years after breaking his forearm in a bout, but in his comeback bout eight weeks prior to this show, he had outboxed DeJesus for an easy eight-round win. DeJesus, 133, had taken that bout on short notice, but this time he was fully prepared. After Rivello cruised through the first two frames, controlling DeJesus in a chess match that resembled their first bout, he was stunned by a crunching volley in the third. Rivello sagged into the ropes after a solid right cross found his chin, but he survived the onslaught.

The boxers traded evenly through the middle rounds, but Rivello regained control in the homestretch. Most observers had Rivello sweeping the last four rounds. Rivello, who left Angelo Dundee's stable to join the closer-to-home Petronelli brothers, is now 14-0. DeJesus fell to 13-6.

In an eight-round semifinal, John Scully, 163, Hartford, stopped Bridgeport's Victor King, 161, with a body shot in the fifth round. Scully improves to 14-1.

Brockton's Brian Powers, 150, dominated Brooklyn's Bill Robinson, 149, to take a lopsided six-round decision. Powers moves to 6-0-1.

Brockton's Mike Culbert, 151, improved to 6-1 with a workmanlike four-round win over Lowell's Manny Madera, 153.

The lively opening bout saw Steve Manfredo, 151, Providence, outslug game Bob Christakos, 153, Lowell, for another four-round decision.

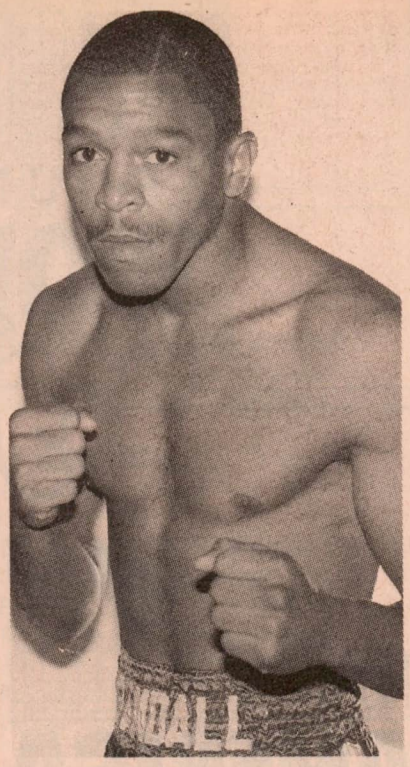
Judges: Don O'Neill and William Connelly
Referees: Jordan Picot (main event) and Ed Fitzgerald
Timekeeper: Thomas Higgins
Physician: Dr. Jorge Tello
Promoter: Pendarvis Boxing Enterprises
Attendance: 580
Gross: $8200 (estimated)
(9-8-89)

Jay N. Miller

MICHIGAN

►**AUBURN HILLS**—The highlight of summer boxing action in Michigan featured a return to The Palace, the home of the NBA world champion Detroit Pistons.

The eight-bout card featured a bruising unanimous decision won by **Frankie Randall** of Morristown, Tennessee. Randall, 40-2-1, 140, topped former Olympic champion Jerry Page of Columbus, Ohio. Page 10-3, 144, saw his fight plan fizzle after he had a point taken away for a low blow. Randall then pressed his counterpunching attack to earn the win.



Frankie "The Surgeon" Randall

Detroit lightweight Stanley Longstreet, a Kronk hopeful for the '90s, disposed of his opponent with a kayo at 1:40 of the second round and raised his record to 16-1. A flush right to the head of the unsuspecting Rafael Solis of San Juan, Puerto Rico, 39-8-2, brought the finish.

Pittsburgh's Carl Sullivan, 6-1, 152¾, worked the body for his shutout decision win over flatfooted Rueben Torres of Cleveland, 5-5-2.

"Mysterious" Augustus Destouche of Detroit, 3-1, fighting at 149 pounds, captured a definitive TKO at 2:55 of the fourth over local favorite and Pontiac's own Marlon Jackson, 1-1.

The undercard also featured the non-stop action of "Irish" Mike Grable, a knockout specialist with a 6-0 record. Grable took out southpaw Craig Wills of Detroit, 2-3, in a junior welterweight bout.

La Mark Davis, a 154-pounder from Dayton, earned a unanimous decision over Danny Thomas, 6-7, to raise his record to 7-2.

Hard-hitting southpaw Frankie Liles knocked out William "Krystal Kid" Clayton of Chicago at 2:33 of round one in a super middleweight contest.

And finally, James Flowers of Chicago, 1-1, decisoned Leeonzer Barber, 2-1, of Detroit.

Officials: Bobby Fisher and Marv McDonald
Ringside Physician: Dr. S Sherbin
Judges: Rose Grable, Frank Garza, Bill Miley, Thomas F. Paruszkiewicz
Promoter: Ringside Productions
Matchmaker: Tommy Vaca
Attendance: 13,000
(8-17-89)

►**DETROIT**—The summer heat gave way to an evening of boxing at the historic and beautiful Detroit Boat Club for the first Bluewater Boxing Classic, organized by member, boxing commisioner, coach, fan, and all-around sportsman and bon vivant on the Detroit scene, Jim Burch. The evening's festivities at poolside opened with a bruising battle more suited to a pier-six brawl than the manicured lawn of a yacht club, as Danny Thomas, Detroit, 164, took a TKO win at 2:20 of the first stanza against Canadian Kronkster Todd Nadon, Windsor, Ontario, 163¼, who served as the textbook example of how a single well-placed thrust at this weight class can turn your fortunes around. Thomas is 3-5, Nadon 3-1-1.

Kevin Hicks, Detroit, 163, took only 1:17 of the

first round to finish Maurice Fergsuon, 162, making his pro debut. Hicks is 2-0.

Irish Mike Grable came back with a vengeance after only a couple of weeks rest to dispose of Tony King, Cincinnati, 140, whose pro debut lasted only 93 seconds. Grable, 141, is 4-0.

It took longer for referee Tom Paruszkiewicz to give the instructions prior to the start of the bout than it did for Detroit's Brian Thomas, 150, to make his pro debut with a 63-second stoppage of Dublin, Ohio's Antonio Wills, also making his pro debut.

Olympian Kenny Gould, 6-0, shone as he whacked out a TKO at 54 seconds of the second stanza over hapless Alex Wright, Lansing, Michigan, who had his nose sculpted by persistent Gould jabs and snapping rights. Referee Paruszkiewicz called for the physician in the first and stopped the contest in the second to prevent further damage. Wright fell to 1-2.

Another Detroiter with a perfect record kept it that way in the co-feature, as middleweight James Toney went to 8-0 with a definitive TKO at 1:46 of the second stanza over veteran Mark Stevens, Detroit, 161¼. Stevens was down from Toney's first onslaught and went to bed in the second, as the 19-year-old dynamo finished his night's work halfway through the round. Stevens is 9-9.

The blond-streak hairdo sported by Boyd Gardner in the main event didn't seem to distract Jeff Hanna, Indianapolis. But Gardner, 128, wore down Hanna and took a fourth-round TKO in workmanlike fashion to close out the card. Hanna, 129, is 17-8.

Venue: Detroit Boat Club, Belle Island, Detroit
Promoter: Jim Burch, Ringside Productions
Matchmaker: Tommy Vaca
Commission: Dr. Stuart E. Kirschenbaum, Jim Cullen, Tom Briscoe, John Jackson
Referees: Sam Williams and Thomas F. Paruszkiewicz
Physician: Dr. Michael Sherbin

►**STERLING HEIGHTS**—At the Premier Star Theatre, "Dangerous" **Courtney Hooper**, 142, Detroit, kept his championship quest on the go with a tough third-round TKO victory over Roman Nunez, 143, Mexico. Hooper improved to 24-1, while Nunez dropped to 32-10.

In the co-feature, Duane "007" Peterson was upset by southpaw Donald "Tiger" Stokes, 140, Mosspoint, Mississippi, via the Kronk Gym. Peterson, 135, Detroit, failed to answer the bell for the fifth round. He was also on the deck in the first. Stokes remained unbeaten at 8-0-1.

In his return from rotator cuff surgery on his right shoulder, "Irish" Mike Grable left little doubt to his abilities and pleased the hometown fans with a 1:38 of the first round knockout over debuting Mike Ragland, 146, Detroit. Grable moved to 4-0.

Roseville's Andre Thibodeaux, 156, kept his winning streak going with a TKO over Randy Cross at 2:27 of the first round. Thibodeax is now 7-1, while Cross, 155, St. Louis, dips to 5-2.

Local favorite Mike Dersa, Pontiac, 135, saw his unbeaten streak snapped as he was floored and stopped at 2:56 of the third by Efrain Canales, 135, Defiance, Ohio. Canales went to 4-1, as did Dersa.

Robert Franklin, 150, scored a one-punch knockout in his pro debut. Lee Smith, Findley, Ohio, was counted out after absorbing a right hand at 1:54 of the first stanza.

Promoter: Remo Carate/Ringside Productions
Matchmaker: Tommy Vaca
Sponsorship: Schaeffer Beer/FNN SCORE
Commission: Dr. Stuart E. Kirschenbaum, Jim Cullen, Jim Burch
Physician: Dr. Michael Sherbin
Referees: Joe Sowerby, Bobby Watson
Judges: Herb Ellison, Jim Hoomian, Chuck McHenry
Timekeepers: Ken Pace, Joe Kollins

Tom Paruszkiewicz

NEVADA

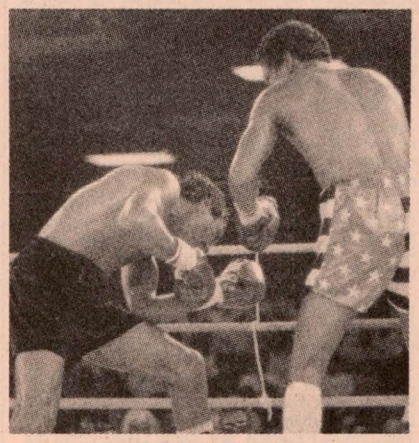
►**LAS VEGAS**—Showboat Hotel/Casino—The next time Bob Arum entertains thoughts about bringing Alfred Rangel back to town, he'll probably have to instruct Top Rank matchmaker Bruce Trampler to sweeten the pot.

It's a cinch the San Antonio, Texas, featherweight will demand (and get) more than the $4,000 he received after being stiffed by the ballots when world-ranked **Louie Espinoza** wound up with a 10-round split decision.

Espinoza earned $7,000, but the Phoenix talent may be hit hard in the wallet down the road and seems certain to take a dip at the next review. Espinoza is ranked number two by both the WBA and IBF.

Dalby Shirley, the judge who voted a draw for Sugar Ray Leonard-Thomas Hearns II, seemed most accurate with a 97-93 tab for Rangel. Cindi Bartin had the same total for Espinoza and Art Lurie voted 96-95 for the former WBA super bantamweight champ.

The controversial decision had Showboat switchboard operators working overtime to field protest calls from all over the country. Tony Cordasco, Showboat publicity chief, personally handled livid complaints from Chicago, New York, Philadelphia, and Florida. Top Rank's office drew similar heat the next day.



Rangel jolts Espinoza

Espinoza, 27, and his trainer, Willy Borchert, agreed that, "it was too tough a fight" after Espinoza's hard-fought draw with WBA 126-pound champion Jorge Paez on May 21. Espinoza raised his record to 34-3-1 (28), while Rangel slipped to 17-6 (10).

"After that great fight Louie had with Paez, the public was expecting too much from him," Borchert said. "But he wasn't as sharp as we wanted him to be."

Espinoza contended he "didn't feel any big pressure," but said, "I was aggravated because Rangel's style was difficult."

There were no knockdowns, but Rangel came on strong in the middle rounds to create the dispute at the end. Both fighters weighed 127.

"I have to be disappointed because I felt I won at least seven rounds," Rangel said. "If we meet later in a rematch, I'll definitely prove my point."

U.S. Olympian, Todd Foster, 140, Great Falls, Montana, made his Vegas pro debut with a blistering body attack to stop rugged Chino Marcial, 140, Eugene, Oregon, at 2:37 of the third round. Foster is 5-0, all knockouts.

Vincent Phillips, 142, Pensacola, Florida, another ex-Olympian, scored his fifth straight knockout victory when he took out John Edwards, 145, Billings, Montana, at 0:45 of the second round.

"Indian Joe" Hipp, 243, Yakima, Washington, scored the upset of the night with a four-round unanimous decision over Cleveland Woods, 218, Ft. Hood, Texas, who was previously unbeaten.

Greg Lonon, 154, Fort Worth, ran his kayo string to four by stopping Antonio Guerra, 155, Bell, California, at 0:45 of the third round.

Sean McClain, 212, Albuquerque, eliminated Matt Belcher, 193, Everett, Washington, at 1:59 of the first round after dropping him three times.

Promoter: Top Rank
Attendance: 1,729
TV: ESPN
(7-18-89)

►**LAKE TAHOE**—Caesars Tahoe—Evander Holyfield's second-round abbreviation of Brazil's Adilson Rodriguez didn't leave the 7,600 fans at Ceasars Tahoe feeling short changed.

The main event's undercard delivered a variety of excitement, capped by an eight-round junior welterweight semifinal in which **Robert Nunez**, 139, West Sacramento, CA, scored a unanimous decision over Jorge Hernandez of Bakersfield, CA.

Roger Orlainata, 165, Reno, was on the floor twice in the second round before rebounding to kayo Ronnie Warren, 167, Las Vegas, at 2:57 of the third round in a scheduled six.

Egerton Marcus, 174, Toronto, made short work of Bakersfield's J.T. Morgan, 168, to score a knockout at 0:58 of the first round. Marcus is trained by Lou Duva, who said of his fighter: "He's gonna be such a good fighter. He's gonna win the title before his 10th fight." Marcus has won three straight inside the distance.

Nick Rupa, 148, Bolton, Ontario, was fully extended before winning a split six-round junior middleweight decision over Armando Savala, 147, Tijuana.
(7-15-89)

►**GARNERVILLE**—There is nothing too big—or too small—for Top Rank Inc. And promoter Bob Arum proved it with his own fistic version of a midsummer's night dream by participating in the 16th annual Cow Pasture Boxing Festival.

This was an outdoor show at the municipal baseball park on Main Street across from Sharkeys' Nugget Casino, which was part of the tri-venture along with Carson City promotion Ted Walker and Top Rank.

"I don't think there is another like it anywhere in the country," said Bruce Trampler, Top Rank's matchmaker in the West. "It's special. That's why Top Rank added Garnerville to our ESPN schedule this year. The ambience is something."

In this year's 10-round main event, **Dan Schommer**, 163, Minneapolis, improved his record to 23-0-1 (17), winning a unanimous decision over Alberto Gonzalez, 162½, Carson City. The 26-year-old Schommer survived a late knockdown to win with room to spare. Gonzalez fell to 22-6-2 (18).

In the best-balanced action of the evening, Rowdy Welch, 136, Reno, scored a hairline six-round decision over previously unbeaten Harpla Talhan, 135, Las Vegas. Welch, moving to 8-0 (2), appeared to pull out the squeaker in the final round after both fighters had taken turns rocking the other throughout the match. Scores in favor of Welch were 58-57, 59-55, and 58-57. Talhan's log dropped to 13-1-2 (6).

Robert Wangila, 149, Las Vegas, dropped Joey Varela, 146, Las Vegas, twice before scoring a knockout at 2:59 of the first round in a scheduled six-rounder. Wangila upped his record to 5-0, while Varela, originally from Cape Verde Island, dropped to 5-1-1.

In a battle of heavyweight giants, 6'6" James Hannun, 220, Las Vegas, gained a narrow four-round majority decision over 7'1" Carl Chancellor, 296, El Paso, Texas.

Joe Hipp, 246, Yakima, Washington, improved to 6-1 (4) with a first-round knockout over Las Vegas' Andrew Matthews, 213¾. A single right hand to the chin ended matters in just 34 seconds.

Frank Newton, 148½, St. Paul, Minnesota, knocked down Lupe Cavesuela, 151, Prunedale, California, once en route to a unanimous four-round decision.

George Parra, 128½, Vallejo, California, made his pro debut with a unanimous four-round victory over Bulmaro Lamas, 132, Carson City.
(7-4-89)

Franklin (left) duels Gomez

►**LAS VEGAS**—At The Showboat Hotel, durable **Jeff Franklin** failed to keep his promise to avoid a "macho war" with Abe Gomez, and it might have cost him a his status as a contender. It might have even cost him his career.

Franklin, 26, who is among the more popular locally based world-ranked fighters, remembers too well that it was such ill-chosen strategy that cost him the USBA featherweight title against Lupe Gutierrez in March.

Franklin dropped a controversial 12-round majority decision to Gutierrez. The same verdict was collected by Gomez, only in 10 rounds in Top Rank's ESPN-televised main event.

Franklin, his record falling to 21-4-3 (8), was taken from the Showboat to Valley Hospital, where an

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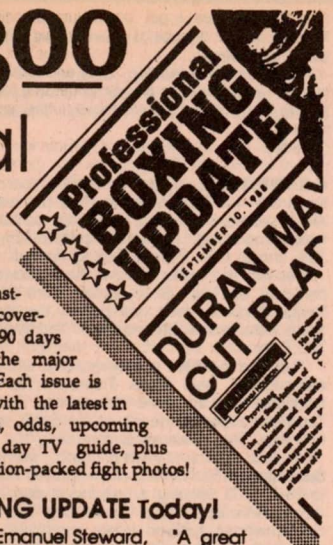

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KO

injury to his right eye was diagnosed as a detached retina.

The protege of trainer Eddie Futch was so disgusted in losing to the harder-punching but less experienced Gomez, 15-2-1 (8), that retirement was mentioned in his post-fight analysis.

"This is the second straight time I should have stayed outside, sticking Gomez with combinations and moving," he said. "No, not me, I had to go to the trenches like I did with Gutierrez.

A crowd of 1,700 saw Franklin, 129, make his first start in nearly six months. On the other hand, the 23-year-old Gomez, 128½, Arieta, California, surfaces as a refreshing new face on Top Rank's TV hit parade, having originally captured the imagination of hard-nosed Las Vegas fans in June, when he climbed off the canvas in the second round to knock out tough Tony Duran of Denver in the eighth round with a savage body assault.

"This victory has to help me in the ratings," Gomez said. "I'm glad Franklin didn't box me like he said he was going to do. It was a good fight because he didn't do a Michael Nunn act. That made it perfect for my style."

Franklin was effective in the early rounds with his stinging jab and head feints. He was in command through the first five rounds, despite Gomez opening a cut over his right eye with double-combinations.

The rivals kept referee Richard Steele at close range as they went head-to-head, firing to the body. Gomez often broke the ex-USBA champion's concentration with left-rights to the stomach that could be heard five rows back.

The judges' consensus had the bout even through eight rounds, but the style that gave Franklin victories over former WBA king Stevie Cruz, Tracy Harris Patterson, and Aaron Lopez would not be enough in this bout.

There were no knockdowns. Neither fighter gave quarter in the ninth and 10th rounds, as Gomez just managed to pull out the decision with the heavier punching.

Judge Bill Graham saw it 95-95, while Gomez earned 97-95 ballots from Jerry Roth and Chuck Giampa. The Ring's scorecard: 97-96 for Franklin.

In brisk undercard action, Vincent Phillips, 142½, of the Las Vegas Gloves team, recorded his seventh straight win, but had to go the distance for the first time in shelling game Jorge Hernandez, 144, Bakersfield, California, for a unanimous six-round decision. Hernandez is 22-12 (13).

Kennedy McKinney, 128, Olympic gold medalist from Memphis, Tennessee, appeared on his way to a second-round stoppage over David Sanchez, 128, Vail, Colorado, when the latter suffered a badly cut left eye from an accidental head butt. The fight was scheduled for six rounds, but it ended in a technical draw when ringside physicians determined Sanchez was unable to continue. McKinney is now 4-0-1 (2). Sanchez is 4-1-1 (3).

Greg Lonon, 155, Las Vegas, who looks sharper with every outing, dropped Joe Hernandez, 154, Pueblo, Colorado, twice with a left hook and a combination before referee Davey Pearl stopped the bout at 2:01 of the first round. Lonon is now 6-0 (5). Hernandez is 7-4-2 (2).

Sean McClain, 218, Albuquerque, knocked down Rick Nelson, 205, Minneapolis, with a straight right and then kayoed him with a chopping right at 2:38 of the first round of a scheduled four-rounder. McClain improved to 9-0 (9). Nelson is 6-3-1 (5).

Sergio Vela, 139, Las Vegas, dropped Ray Garcia, 143, Phoenix, twice before winning via kayo at 1:50 of the third round of a scheduled six-round fight. Vela is 2-0; Garcia is 3-3 (1).

(8-29-89)

►**LAKE TAHOE—Michael Carbajal** and **Ray Mercer** became the long and short of it as the undefeated co-attractions in Top Rank's most recent ESPN fistic presentation at Harrah's Lake Tahoe resort.

Carbajal, 108½, Phoenix, was the "long," as he went eight rounds for the first time as a pro to win a unanimous decision over Jose Luis Herrera, 109, of Calexico, California.

Mercer, 210, the 1988 Olympic heavyweight gold medalist from Short Hills, New Jersey, was again the "short," showing thunder and lightning in hammering outclassed Dino Homsey, 195¾, Phoenix, to the floor three times for a TKO at 1:58 of the first round of their scheduled eight-rounder.

Mercer, 28, now is 8-0 (7).

Dating back to May 1989, the former soldier, who started boxing in 1983 in West Germany, has knocked out his last five opponents in less than one round. No wonder he's called "Merciless."

Manager Marc Roberts and trainer Hank Johnson are anxious for him to get in his rounds, but it was the same old story against 6'2" Homsey, whose record fell to 11-6-1 (8).

Homsey, 30, said he was going to stick and circle, which he did until Mercer caught him with a right to the top of the head. Another chopping right put Homsey down for an eight-count from referee Mills Lane. Homsey rose reluctantly, then absorbed a right uppercut that stretched his neck. Another right sent him reeling to the canvas again. Finally, a short right caught Homsey. As his body pitched and swayed toward the canvas, Lane stopped the fight.

"There are no easy fights," Mercer said. "Some just get over faster than others. I hurt Homsey with the first right I threw. That's always my first move because I was born with a right hand. However, I have learned other things. After the second knockdown, I got a little carried away because I knew I needed only one more knockdown to end it."

Carbajal, a light flyweight silver medalist at the 1988 Olympics, dropped Herrera's record to 13-2 (8).

"We were expecting a tough fight," Carbajal said. "I was told Herrera was a strong fighter, and he was. A fight like this can only help me.

"This is a fight in which I learned a lot. And I like going the distance if I have to. I was hitting Herrera with some good shots. But I put my hands down a couple of times and you shouldn't do that as a pro."

Carbajal, 21, considered by many to be the best prospect from the Olympics, dominated Herrera with combinations of jabs, hooks, and uppercuts to gain an 80-71 shutout on the judges' scorecards. He rarely missed a chance to bloody Herrera's nose early. Then he cut his right eye in the eighth round. Carbajal scored the only knockdown in the fourth, when he caught Herrera with a right uppercut and hook.

In a scheduled six-round opening bout, Tommy "The Duke" Morrison, 211, Kansas City, won his 16th consecutive fight when he TKO'd Ric Enis, 190, Union City, Indiana, at 2:45 of the first round.

Morrison, 20, the great grandnephew of John Wayne, never let Enis get on track, hurting him with body shots and knocking him down twice with rights before Lane halted it with the Hoosier badly dazed. Enis is 18-14-1 (15).

Donald Stevens, 178, Las Vegas, is 5-2-1 (1) after earning a split four-round decision over Rodney Brown, 179, of Oakland. Brown is 4-3 (2).

Rick Jarvis, 164, Portland, Oregon, knocked out Rich Lafever, 166, Longview, Washington, at 2:07 of the first round. Jarvis is 10-3-1 (9), while Lafever is 7-8 (2).

Eversett Ryan, 150, San Francisco, was a mild surprise, as he improved to 4-11 (3) when he knocked out previously undefeated Danny Chavez, 149, of Petaluma, California, at 1:48 of the first round. Chavez had won two stright by knockout. (9-5-89)

Jack Welsh

NEW JERSEY

►**ATLANTIC CITY**—Harrah's Marina Hotel Casino—The Olympic class of 1988 continues to shine on the boxing world as four members of '88 team notched easy victories in Atlantic City. Heavyweight gold medalist, **"Merciless" Ray Mercer**, 213, Essex County, NJ, continues to show no mercy and a lot of power as he knocked out Al "Chico" Evans, 211, Houston, at 2:55 of the first round. Mercer dropped Evans twice, the second and final time a result of a hard right hand. Mercer improves to 6-0 (5), including four first round kayos.

Mercer's former teammate and possible future opponent, super heavyweight silver medalist **Riddick Bowe**, 225, Brooklyn, kept pace with the rest of his teammates by stopping Lorenzo Canaday, 234, Detroit, in the second round. Bowe, who entered the ring in a Batman costume, dropped Canaday in the first, but the Michigan native fought back hard during round two. However, Bowe, 5-0 (4), was too much for Canaday, and he knew it. Canaday did not answer the bell for the third round.

Gold medalist, **Andrew Maynard**, 175, Laurel, MD, knocked out Greg Townes, 172, Providence, at 1:41 of the third round in scheduled six-rounder. Townes fended off Maynard with a stiff left jab in the first round, but the Olympic media darling became more aggressive, picking up the pace in rounds two and three. A single left hook dropped Townes for the count in Maynard's corner to end the fight. All six of Maynard's wins have come via knockout.

Silver medalist, **Michael Carbajal**, 108, Phoenix, improved to 6-0 (5) with a second-round stoppage of Franciso Lueveno, 108, Los Angeles. Carbajal dropped his opponent twice in the first round and once more in the second.

Also on the card was unbeaten middleweight Dan Sherry. Sherry, 161¾, Washington, DC, scored a unanimous six-round decision over southpaw Chris Guest, 160, Philadelphia. Sherry is 8-0 (3).

Promoter: Top Rank/Gelb
Referees: Tony Orlando, Paul Venti
Judges: Al DeVito, Jean Williams, Rocky Castellani
TV: CBS
(7-15-89)

Jack Obermayer

►**ATLANTIC CITY**—Doubly disappointing main events were more than compensated for by a fine undercard. An unheralded talent who's spent years developing out of the limelight, **Tracy Spann**, 139, Plainsfield, got little fight out of Elvis Perez, 139, Newark, in a scheduled 10-rounder.

Though he came in boasting a solid 17-2-1 record, Perez conceded everything but the stool. With Perez stuck in reverse, southpaw Spann trekked forward, picking his punches smartly to maximize damage while minimizing risk. Not that Perez offered much of the latter. He did nothing to open Spann up, opting to wait for chances that never came.

In the fourth, Spann figured he'd taken enough time, increased the pressure, and dropped Perez three times for a TKO at 2:11. Under trainer Johnny Persol, the former light heavyweight contender, Spann stretched his record to 22-0.

In the co-feature, Brett Lally, 159½, Detroit, won a unanimous decision over John Scully, 160¼, Hartford, in a serious but dreadfully sloppy 10. The ballyhooed Scully, suffering his first loss after 13 wins in the hinterlands, blamed his poor showing on "stage fright" over his first appearance in the cosmopolitan casino city. But a larger factor may have been his gallery of non-combative sacrifices at friendly venues.

Exhibiting no frills and few skills, Lally just went straight at the frozen southpaw, staggering him with a harmless right hand in the second. It didn't get any better for Scully, who never could get off, while Lally shoved, muscled, and clobbered him in a crude, grueling battle of earnest intentions offset by missed opportunities.

Promising Levander Johnson, 133¾, Atlantic City, survived a test of fire to edge Lyndon Walker, 136, Atlantic City, by unanimous decision in four.

Gene Reed, 127, Scranton, Pennsylvania, was down in the final round, but hung on to take a narrow split decision over Don Archer, 123, Clementon, New Jersey.

Heavyweight James Drubin, 193, East Meadow, Long Island, was dropped by a vicious left hook in the first round but came on to outblast Corey Coulter, 198, Greenwich, New York, for a unanimous four-round decision.

Referees: Tony Perez, Earl Morton
Promoter: Top Rank
Matchmakers: Teddy Brenner, Ron Katz
Timekeeper: Lindsey Tucker
TV: ESPN
Announcer: Michael Buffer
Attendance: 900 (estimated)
(7-11-89)

J.R. Jowett

►**ATLANTIC CITY**—At The Showboat, John Meekins, fast gaining the reputation as "Mr. Pullout," was replaced with a week to go by veteran traveler David Taylor, 139, Atlanta. And with matchmaker Ron Katz having his own reputation, Taylor almost pulled off the not-so-rare ESPN victory by substitution.

Close, but no cigar, as **Alfredo Rojas**, 142¼, New York City, took the 10-rounder by unanimous decision. Scores were 96-95 from Milo Savage, 95-94 from Frank Cairo, and a rather wide 98-92 from John Poturaj. The referee was Frank Cappuccino.

Rojas, now listed at 15-2 (6), and originally from Venezuela, received the narrow victory by virtue of a first-round knockdown that gave him a 10-8 vote across the board. Taylor came out hungry for a meaningful win, but instead ran into the knockdown blow; it was costly indeed; a 10-9 round would have meant a final result of a majority draw.

Taylor, with little power, lacked forceful combinations, yet as the rounds wore on, he was the busier of the two. Rojas, on the other hand, countered effectively and landed the cleaner shots in this earnest, but untidy, matchup. Taylor is now reported to be 17-12-2 (8).

Switch-hitting Jerry Jones, 210¼, Hillcrest Heights, Maryland, used his lanky frame and awkward style to completely frustrate a rather plumb Hassan Shabazz, 248¼, Hartford. Jones took a unanimous six-round decision by near-shutout margins: 59-55, and two scores at 60-55. After two rounds, Shabazz, out of the ring for 19 months, had little left but heart. Jones is now 7-1 (5), while Shabazz falls to 5-2-1 (2). The referee was Rudy Battle.

Tommy Morrison, 209, Kansas City, had little problem with lefty Jesse Shelby, 204¾, Roswell, New Mexico, taking the scheduled six by TKO at 1:55 of the second. The fierce-punching Morrison, known as "The Duke," dropped his foe in the second. After barely beating the count, Shelby couldn't convince Cappuccino that he was okay to go on. Morrison is now 15-0, (13). Shelby falls to a listed 16-7-1 (12).

Keith Providence, 169, New York City, had to settle for a majority draw over six with Lenzie Morgan, 166, Youngstown, Ohio. Providence, now 4-0-1 (3), was the hard-hitting aggressor, while Morgan, 6-1-1 (2), fought back often enough to get the crowd behind him. While Cairo and Savage saw it 57-57, a more realistic 58-55 for Providence was posted by Poturaj. Battle was the referee.

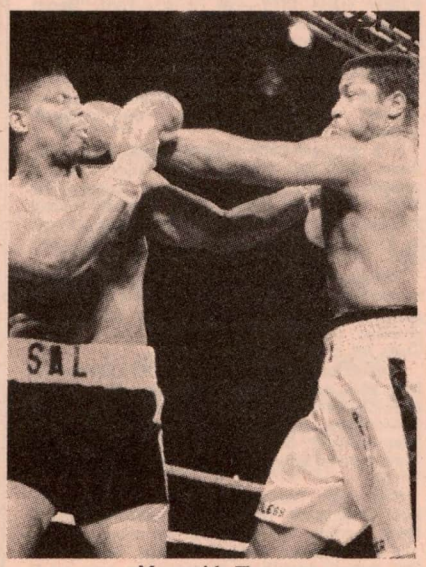
Bruce Seldon, 218¼, Atlantic City, proved too much for the debut of southpaw Ezra Sellars, 200, Hillcrest Heights. The awkward movements of Sellars gave the anxious winner some problems, but Sellars was finally dumped in his own corner at the end of the first. Sellars was dropped again in the next session before Cappuccino halted the bout and awarded Seldon, 5-0 (5), the TKO win at 1:19 of the second. It was scheduled for four.

The debuts of southpaw Donald "Psycho" Harris, 142½, Philadelphia, and Jibril Jamal, 144, Mt. Royal, New Jersey, ended in a no-knockdown draw. Most felt Jamal the winner. Referee was Battle.

Promoter: Top Rank
Timekeeper: Lindsey Tucker
(8-22-89)

Jack Obermayer

►**WEST ORANGE**—South Mountain Arena—In a ghastly reminder of boxing's cruelty, Olympic standout **Andrew Maynard**, 176, Laurel, Maryland, stopped Arthur "Butch" Hall, 176, Irvington, at 0:46 of round five and left him twitching madly on the canvas. Up to that point, Hall had been staging a good fight. In round four, he backed up Maynard with lefts and rights, but got caught by a right himself just before the bell. Maynard came out in the fifth with a furious left to end it 46 into the round.



Mercer sticks Thomas

Ray Mercer, 211½, Short Hills, New Jersey, knocked out Tracy Thomas, 242, Detroit, at 2:09 of round one. Thomas, a southpaw, learned why Mercer's nickname is "Merciless" when he felt the horrific force of Mercer's left hook and right cross that dropped him.

Alfred Cole, 178, South Orange, stopped John Beckles, 177, New York City, at 2:01 of round four. Cole dropped Beckles with a left hook in the first exchange of the fight, but Beckles redoubled his efforts through the fourth round. Cole then worked over his opponent in the corner for a standing eight-count and followed with a stunning left hook, prompting referee Joe Cortez to stop the fight.

Charles Murray, 140, South Orange, knocked down Joe Alexander, 141¾, Philadelphia, in round one when he doubled up on his right. Alexander fought on, but Murray earned a unanimous decision. "Sometimes I get bored just standing out there jabbing and jabbing," Murray said. "You can get lulled to sleep out there and maybe get caught with a punch. So I like to step in and let the other guy hit me once in a while just to get that feeling of being in a fight." Spoken like a future knockout victim.

Dan Sherry, 162¼, Burlington, Ontario, Canada, won a unanimous decision over Anthony Daley, 165, New Britain, Connecticut, in six foul-filled rounds.

Julio "El Puas" Merino, 136, Newark, scored an upset knockout of Giovanni Vacchio, 136, Providence, as he scored two knockdowns. The stoppage came at 1:16 of round two. Meanwhile, Danny Butler, 173, Willingboro, edged Leroy Moore, 175¼, Newark, by split decision.

Promoters: Marc Roberts and Top Rank, Inc.
Matchmakers: Teddy Brenner and Ron Katz
Attendance: 1,800
TV: ESPN
Judges: Eva Shain, Thomas Kaczmarek, Phil Newman
Timekeeper: Roosevelt Gilbert
Ring Announcer: Mike Buffer
(8-15-89)

J.R. Jowett

NEW YORK

►**NEW YORK CITY**—Felt Forum—Former WBA heavyweight champion **Michael "Dynamite" Dokes** announced the day before the fight that he will continue to box for another 12 months and that is it. Inside of the one year time restraint Dokes has placed on himself, his main goal is to get into the ring with heavyweight champion Mike Tyson (who else?). Well, if Dokes' performance is indicative of the way he'll be fighting over the next 12 months, Tyson and the rest of the heavyweight division had better take notice.

Dokes, 235, Miami Beach, knocked out Bobby Crabtree, 210, Fort Smith, Arkansas, with a left hook to the body at 1:46 of the first round. Crabtree, a southpaw, came to fight and landed several left hooks over Dokes' right hand early in the round. But Dokes managed to back Crabtree into a neutral corner and landed the punishing body punch near the liver. Crabtree remained on the canvas, writhing in pain for over a minute.

In the co-feature, unbeaten heavyweight Alex "The Destroyer" Stewart, 222, Brooklyn, stopped a flabby Fernando Montes, 250, Monterey, California, in the second round. Stewart was never threatened in the fight and landed punches at will. Referee Wayne Kelly stepped in at 1:50 of round two after Montes absorbed a series of unanswered combinations.

At ringside, observing both Dokes and Stewart, were heavyweight contenders Tim Witherspoon, Razor Ruddock, and Renaldo Snipes. All three expressed an interest in fighting either Dokes or Stewart in the future. Witherspoon, accompanied by his new promoter, Dennis Rappaport, went as far as challenging Stewart at the postfight press conference. Rappaport produced a contract for $50,000 for Stewart to fight Witherspoon. But Stewart's manager and former Rappaport colleague Mike Jones said the matter would have to be taken up with Bobby Goodman, Stewart's promoter.

On the undercard, welterweight contender Aaron Davis, 149, Bronx, stopped a competitive Anthony Williams, 147, Dallas, at 2:40 of the seventh round.

Larry Barnes, 145, Mt. Vernon, New York, decisioned Derrick Davenport, 150, New York City, over eight busy rounds.

In a scheduled eight-rounder, Francisco Juan Mesquita, 144½, New York City, stopped previously unbeaten Oscar Ponce, 143½, Philadelphia, at 2:57 of the sixth round.

Welterweight prospect, Willy Wise, 149, Westbury, New York, stopped Angelo Muniz, 144, Wichita, at 1:26 of the first. Wise, 6-0 (2), dropped Muniz twice.

Peter Nieves, 134, Brooklyn, knocked out Carlos Peralta, 136, Bronx, at 2:21 of the first round.

Making his professional debut, Jade Scott, 175, Bronx, scored a TKO over Elliot Santiago, 175, North Bergen, New Jersey, at 2:42 of the second round. Scott is a two-time New York Golden Glove finalist. It was also Santiago's pro debut.

In a real crowd-pleaser, Mike King, 153, Westbury, outpointed, Terry Barnes, 153½, New York City, to earn a unanimous four-round decision. It was the pro debut for both fighters.

Promoter: Madison Square Garden
Matchmaker: Bobby Goodman
TV: MSG
(7-13-89)

Robert Cassidy

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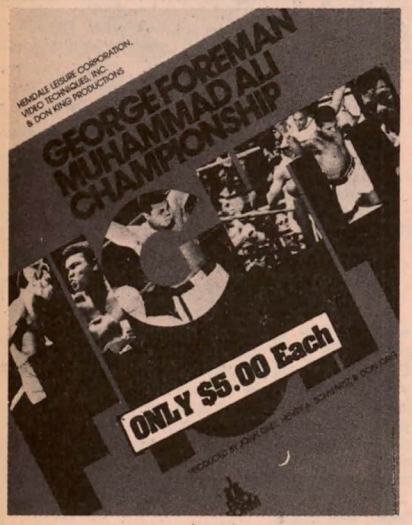

Perhaps the most fondly remembered of all of Muhammad Ali's fights was "The Rumble In The Jungle" against the seemingly invincible George Foreman. Ali, a 6-1 underdog, was expected to become another kayo statistic of Foreman's brutal fists.

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►**SWAN LAKE**—Imperial Resort Hotel—**James "Buddy" McGirt**, 144½, Brentwood, NY, had things nearly all his own way in winning a 10-round unanimous decision over Tony "The Tiger" Baltazar, 145, Las Vegas.

Except for a crackling left hook to the head that put him flat on his back midway into the second round, McGirt was too much of a craftsman for the slow-footed, one-dimensional Baltazar.

Baltazar didn't seem to have the foggiest idea about how to handle the moving target McGirt presented. Save for his thunderous left hook, he had little to offer. Meanwhile, McGirt, the former IBF junior welterweight boss, landed some of the prettiest combinations this side of Ray Leonard.

Baltazar may have won the first, obviously won the second, but never threatened again until the ninth. He came out strong at the start of the 10th, but soon faded as McGirt resumed control. Judges Harold Lederman and Billy Costello (the former WBC super lightweight champ) both scored it 8-2 for McGirt, while judge Barbara Perez saw it 7-3, also for McGirt.

For McGirt, it was his fifth win since dropping the IBF title to Meldrick Taylor last September, raising his record to 43-2-1 (35). Baltazar suffered his first defeat in six years and his first since being released from prison two years ago. His log stands at 32-3-1 (25). The referee was Arthur Mercante Jr.

Adam Garland, 161¼, Piscataway, New Jersey, won an all-action eight-rounder over tough Eddie Hall, 161½, Uniontown, New York. Hall was floored in the first round by a right hand, smacked around for two more rounds, suffered a cut near his left eye, but gamely hung in there until the final bell.

Donny Giron, 155, Denver, appeared to get the short end of matters when the judges saw fit to call his six-rounder with Roosevelt Walker, 154, Newark, a draw. The pleasing affair was refereed by Harry Papacaralambus.

In a stinker of a walk-out bout, James "747" Holmes, 227, Brooklyn, won a four-round decision over debuting Ray Mann, 247, Philadelphia.

Promoter: Madison Square Garden & Banner Promotions
Matchmaker: Bobby Goodman
TV: CBS
(7-9-89)

Jack Obermayer

►**NEW YORK CITY**—Felt Forum—**Tom "Boom Boom" Johnson**, 126, Detroit, turned in a very impressive performance in stopping Fermin Rodriguez, 124, San Antonio, at 1:37 of the sixth round. Johnson's quick hands and pinpoint combinations were too much for the durable Rodriguez to handle. Johnson moves to 18-0 (11), while Rodriguez dropped to 11-4 (2).

In a very competitive fight, Dennis Cruz, 132, Bronx, came back from a two-year layoff to cop a unanimous 10-round decision over Richie "The Ninja" Otero, 130, Brooklyn. The rust was evident in Cruz' performance, but he still did enough to get by the rugged Otero, 10-9 (4). Cruz is now 24-3 (19).

Michael Dale, 165, East Orange, New Jersey, landed first and more often as he took a unanimous six-round decision over Terminator Coles, 164, Brooklyn. Dale lifted his record to 7-3-1 (2), while Coles fell to 5-3 (4).

Jake "The Snake" Rodriguez, 141, Brentwood, New York, was far too strong in the later rounds and handed Donald Allison, 142, Lake Ronkonkoma, New York, his first loss, via unanimous six-round decision. Allison was down in the fourth round. Rodriguez is 8-0-1 (3) and Allison is 5-1-1 (2).

New York heavyweight Leland Hardy, 197, stopped a game Tony Hayes, 220, High Point, North Carolina, at 1:59 of the first round.

In his pro debut, Craig Cummings, 148, Kansas City, stopped Ariel Rigel, 146, Brooklyn, on a cut at the end of the second round.

Promoter: Madison Square Garden
Matchmaker: Bobby Goodman
Referees: Wayne Kelly, Joe Santarpia, Carl Schroeder
Judges: Tony Castellano, John Colan, Marvin Goldberg
TV: MSG
(6-29-89)

►**BROOKLYN**—Gleason's Arena—In the top bout, highly-regarded **Peter Nieves**, 129½, Harlem, got all he wanted in edging out a unanimous decision over gritty Reyes Munoz, 131½, Perth Amboy, NJ. The classy Nieves got off to a commanding start, but the determined Muniz closed the gap. It required an all-out final round from the favorite to prevent Muniz from pulling even.

In the "Pit Bull Championships," Wayne "Pit Bull" Richards, 148½, Bronx, appeared lucky to come away with a six-round split decision over Mike "Pit Bull" Brown, 150½, New York City. Although neither has a style reflective of the monicker, they seemed to take the "title" seriously, and put on a hard-fought contest. Brown, a counterpuncher, rattled the standup boxer a couple of times, but neither fighter was able to take control of the seesaw battle. A draw might have been a more accurate result.

In a dreadfully misconducted affair, Mack Brown, 156, Greenport, New York, was disqualified at 2:34 of the fourth round against Richard Quiles, 155½, Coney Island, in a scheduled six. Brown was ahead in a clutching, shoving non-fight, but the frustration of his inability to effectively reach the reluctant Quiles turned into a variety of infractions. After three warnings, referee Nick Drake showed he meant business.

In another six-rounder, Donald Allison, 139, Brooklyn, turned in a fine win, completely dominating slick Jorge Collozzo, 136½, Perth Amboy, New Jersey, by unanimous decision.

Robert Alveraz, 135, Brooklyn, belted out lefty Oscar Gonzales, 138½, Moriches, New York, with a one-knockdown TKO at 2:27 of the third of a slam-bam four-rounder.

Promoter: Charles Rapp
Matchmaker: Harold Weston
Judges: Harold Lederman, Ted Wint, Charlie Norkus
Ring Announcer: Sandy Redock
Attendance: 275 (estimated)
(6-23-89)

J.R. Jowett

PENNSYLVANIA

►**PHILADELPHIA**—Blue Horizon—**Nate "Mr." Miller**, 189½, Philadelphia, made the first successful defense of his NABF cruiserweight title, registering a TKO win at 1:37 of the seventh round over Andre "Big Daddy" McCall, 192½, Houston.

Miller, 15-1 (13), nearly had a first-round kayo. He couldn't miss his awkward, out-of-synch challenger, and though referee Rudy Battle ruled a knockdown a slip, Miller was off to a flying start.

By round four, McCall was bleeding from the mouth and had a puffy left eye. While he managed a brief rally in the sixth, Miller rode out the attack. In the final frame, Miller connected with a thudding right to the head and McCall hit the canvas. McCall arose at six, and was then rescued by referee Battle after being nailed with a followup barrage.

"I was mostly counterpunching, but when he made a mistake, I retaliated," said Miller. "When his eye closed, I started to concentrate on it."

While the future looks promising for Miller, McCall, once considered a prospect, seems to have hit the skids. He has lost four of his last five bouts, lowering his slate to 14-4-1 (9).

After the bout, it was discovered that Miller had suffered a broken jaw. He'll be out of action for at least two months.

Local favorite Anthony Boyle, 130½, Philadelphia, won a scheduled 10-rounder when his limited but showboating opponent, Edgar Garcia, 126, El Paso, decided to stay on his stool after eight completed rounds.

Junior lightweight Anthony Boyle

Boyle, who upped his record to 17-1-1 (9), just pecked away at Garcia, but failed to register a knockdown.

Mike Brown, 149, Philadelphia, TKO'd James Woodhouse, 142½, Philadelphia, at 2:13 of the second round of a scheduled eight. Woodhouse was down twice.

Anthony Rosser, 171, Philadelphia, came from behind to TKO Wayne Flemming, 168, Philadelphia,

at 1:29 of the fourth round. The climax came during a free-swinging exchange that saw both men rocked. Flemming went down, beat the count, but never fully recovered. Rosser kept punching and referee Charlie Sgrillo stopped the fight.

Robert Hightower, 138½, took a spirited four-rounder from fellow Philadelphian Willie Ford, 138. There were no knockdowns.

In a sloppy heavyweight bout, William Morris, 216½, Philadelphia, took an unpopular four-round majority decision over Al Shoffner, 215, Philadelphia.

Tommy Pyfer, 171, pleased his noisy Upper Darby fans with a TKO over unschooled Richard Harris, 164, Philadelphia, at 1:01 of the first round. Harris was down twice.

Judges: Harold Lederman, Paul Harris, Adalaide Tyndale
Matchmaker: J. Russell Peltz
Promoter: Peltz Boxing
TV: SportsChannel America
Attendance: 1,200
(7-10-89)

Jack Obermayer

►**PHILADELPHIA**—Blue Horizon—What has become almost an accepted nuisance locally produced a virtual national scandal when it got on TV and nearly touched off a riot in this colorful little club. **Tyrone Mitchell Frazier**, 169, Philadelphia, and **Vincent Bouleware**, 169, Harrisburg, put on a rousing battle, only to have it ruined by the wildly undisciplined local officiating.

The more experienced and skilled Bouleware seemed to have things under control at the outset. He kept Frazier off with his long jab as Frazier reached awkwardly with his punches.

But beginning in the third round, Frazier virtually willed himself past the jab and the action picked up considerably. Through the middle rounds, it was an exciting and grueling struggle, with command shifting in almost every stanza. Frazier landed the bigger punches, rocking the invader with flashy left hooks. But Bouleware's short, inside work, while less noticeable, was punishing and kept the contest tight. Until it broke open in the ninth.

A relentless Frazier jolted Bouleware again and again. Bouleware's trainer Jesse Reid began to make a move up the steps, but referee Tommy Reid never saw him. Frazier's strong finish clearly earned him the win, but not in the eyes of the judges. The decision was first announced for Bouleware, with Charlie Sgrillo voting 45-45, Paul Harris 46-45, and Ozzie Sadler an incredible 49-44. While the house simmered on the verge of exploding, and the "loser" exhorted his fans to remain calm, *The Ring's* Jack Obermayer noted that Harris had added his scorecard incorrectly. Harris actually scored the fight 45-45, making the verdict a still-disgraceful majority draw. Bouleware and Reid admitted in interviews that they didn't deserve as much.

Andre Haddock, 161, Philadelphia, continued to impress, stopping rugged Luis Rodriguez, 161, Bronx, on his feet at 2:28 of an explosive first round.

Chris "The Worm" Guest, 164¾, W. Philadelphia, thoroughly drubbed Mark Frazier, 165¼, N. Philadelphia, by a unanimous verdict over six.

Promising Ronnie Hammonds, 151, N. Philadelphia, wore down and stopped Bill Robinson, 152, Brooklyn, at 2:08 of the sixth and final round. Robinson was floored in both the fifth and sixth rounds.

Ulysses Bouleware, 157, Harrisburg, TKO'd southpaw Darrin Oliver, 158, Newark. Oliver didn't answer the bell for the fourth and final round. Right uppercuts dropped Oliver twice in the first and again to close out the third.

Chandler Durham, 166½, Philadelphia, earned a unanimous verdict over Charles Pope, 165, Philadelphia, in a four-rounder.

Promoter: Joe Frazier
Matchmaker: Harold Moore
Referees: Reid, Ron Aurit
Timekeeper: Tony Stenza
TV: USA Network
Ring Announcer: Ron Del Buono
Attendance: 1,500 (estimated)
(6-22-89)

J.R. Jowett

►**PHILADELPHIA**—Blue Horizon—In one of the best cards ever seen here, matchmaker Harold Moore risked leaving this racially tense city in ashes when he matched Kensington Irishman Brian McGinley, 150, with Camden, New Jersey, Puerto Rican **Juan Ramon Santana**, 151½. The town didn't burn, but the little arena boiled with an incredibly savage fight that had the packed house turning up the burners on an already hot night to fever level. The once-promising Puerto Rican was

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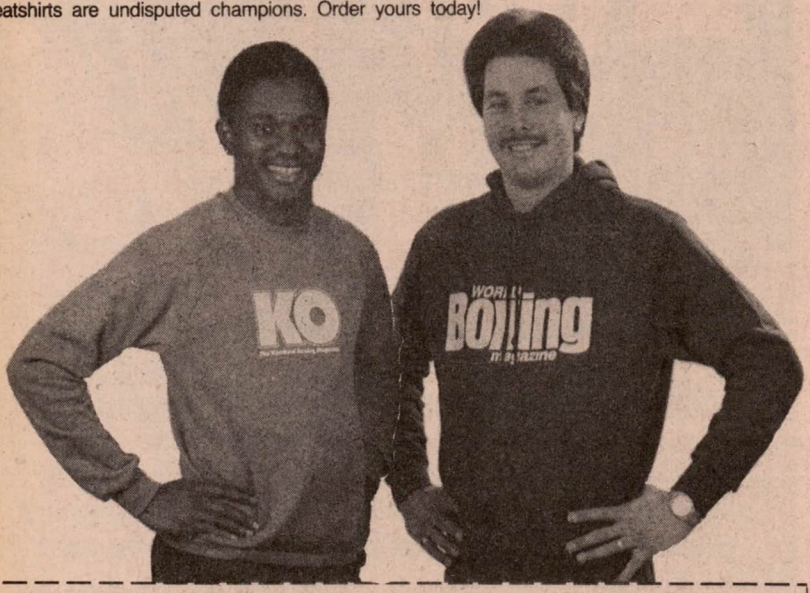

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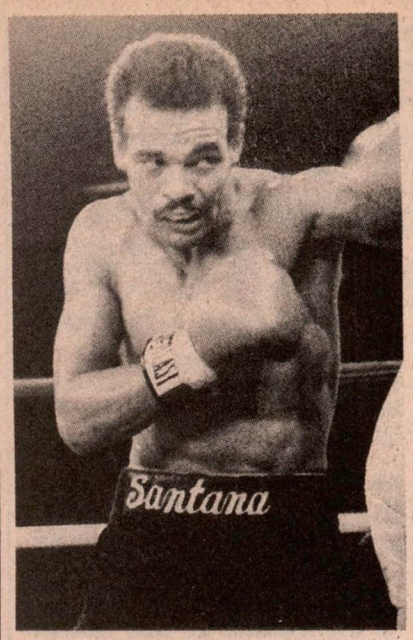

Welterweight Juan Ramon Santana

returning to the wars after a layoff that followed some disappointing losses. Santana getting into the middle of something like this was like Custer wanting to go back to Little Big Horn. But Santana miraculously survived tremendous pressure from the rugged Irishman.

Eschewing any niceties, the two battlers just stood and smashed blow after brain-wrecking blow off of each other's heads with unrelenting savagery, while the venly divided crowd was worked into an explosive frenzy. McGinley was able to break open the ripping exchanges and stagger Santana on several occasions, but his volleys always burned out before Santana's resolve (or skull) cracked. Though the blast-furnace pace figured to favor the active and durable Irish lad over the comebacking Puerto Rican, Santana managed to rally from every nearly disastrous turn of action until he beat McGinley to the punch in an exchange of simultaneous sledgehammer rights in the eighth. McGinley broke for the first time in the furious battle, staggering back, with Santana clubbing him to the canvas. Upon arising, McGinley was jarred by uppercuts along the ropes until referee Tommy Reid stopped the scheduled 10-rounder—over McGinley's protests—at 1:04. Santana led 34-30 on the card of Al Morris and 33-30 on Adalaide Tyndale's, but trailed on Guy Richardson's by a score of 34-33.

Prospect Angel Gomez, 134¾, N. Philadelphia, proved he's for real, dishing out a solid beating to tough Lyndon Walker, 134, Washington, D.C., by unanimous decision in a fast-paced six. Referee was John Carroll.

Segundo Mercado, 162½, New York City, devastated game Eric Rinehardt, 168, Charlotte, at 1:14 of the second in a scheduled six. Rinehardt was floored twice in the first and was being pummeled when referee Reid rescued him.

James Durbin, 189, East Meadow, Long Island, turned in a good win with a unanimous decision over Joey Gianfriddo, 190, S. Philadelphia, in a rugged four. Referee was Carroll.

Fernando Rodriguez, 126½, Lancaster, topped returning Angel Gonzales, 130½, N. Philadelphia, in a one-sided but spirited unanimous four-rounder. The referee was Carroll.

Ray Sutton, 141, S. Philadelphia, scored a unanimous win over Angel Rodriguez, 139½, N. Philadelphia, in an action four. Referee: Reid.

Prince Palido, 137½, S. Philadelphia, and Willie Nelson, 143½, Troy, New York, battled to a split draw in a sizzling four. Referee: Reid.

Promoters: Eddie Woods and Top Rank, Inc.
Attendance: 1050
TV: Telemundo
Timekeeper: J.P. Mina
Ring Announcer: Oscar Rosario
(8-18-89)

►**SCRANTON**—Catholic Youth Center—Floyd Patterson made a comeback—as a promoter—and stunk out the house. This traditional fight town is dying for boxing, but will be dead to boxing if they continue robbing the graveyard to fill the undercards.

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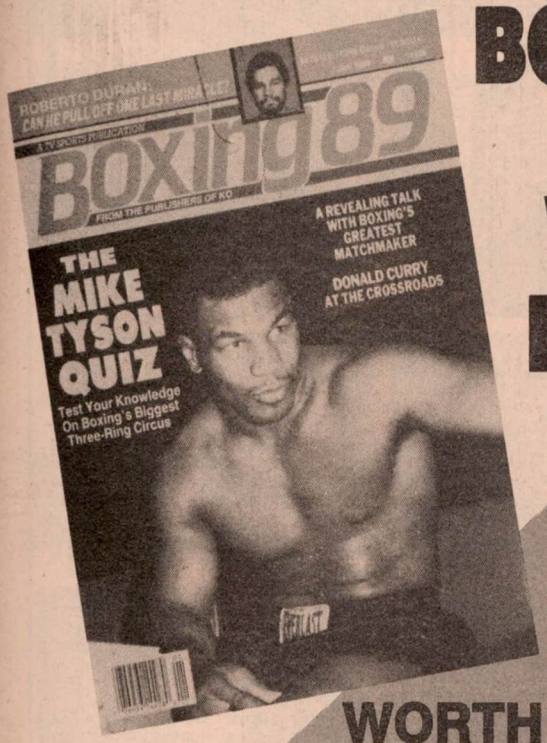

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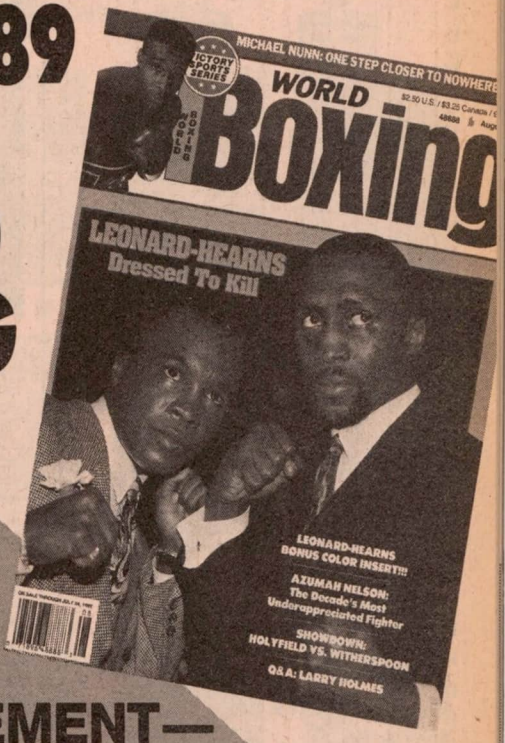

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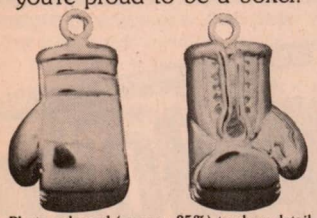

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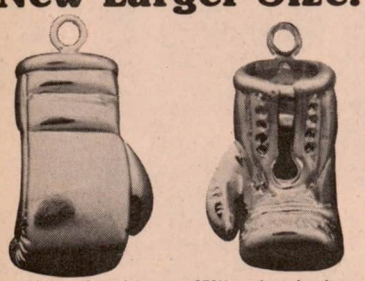

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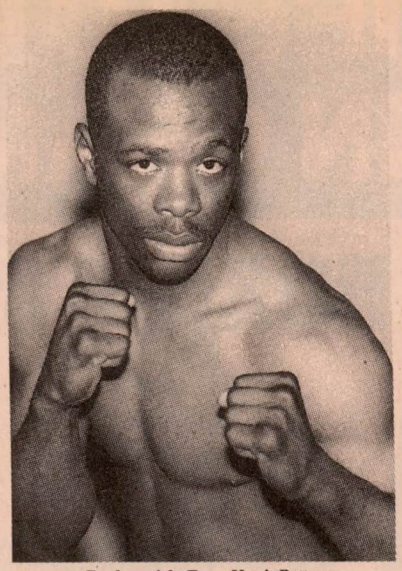


Featherweight Tracy Harris Patterson

In the main event, Floyd's son, **Tracy Harris Patterson**, was eased back into action with just a workout. In his first outing since his loss to Steve Cruz, Harris, 125, New Paltz, New York, got to build his confidence and polish his moves in a one-sided but rugged 10-round unanimous win over Jose Soto, 125, Harlingen, Texas. Soto's approach was strictly safety first, frustrating Patterson's power, but at least he stood up and gave the hero some work. Buddy Rush refereed.

Similarly, Mike Peoples, 163½, New Paltz, was able to turn in a tour-de-force against Tim Davis, 159½, Baltimore, with a unanimous eight-round decision. Attempting to revive his career under Floyd Patterson's direction after campaigning as an opponent for some time, Peoples at least found Davis willing. Davis was down an incredible *seven* times: twice in the fourth, fifth, and sixth, and once in the eighth. Rush refereed.

Lefty Ernest Kennedy, 158½, Philadelphia, scored a unanimous win over Robert Edmonds, 157½, Baltimore, in a dullish four. Edmonds attempted to box, but his efforts were directed more toward discretion than valor. John McHale refereed.

The balance of the undercard was lowlighted by uncompetitive bouts. In a scheduled six, Gene Reed, 128, Scranton, kayoed Ron Washington, 131, Philadelphia, who fell down from a push and refused to rise, even at McHale's instructions, and was counted out to a chorus of boos at 42 seconds of the second.

Brian Bogdanski, 158, Scranton, a popular kid who deserved better than this, kayoed Ron Jones, 157, Philadelphia, who fell at 48 seconds of the first in a scheduled four. Rush refereed.

Willie Kemp, 163, Rochester, kayoed Bob Saxton, 157, Philadelphia, who at least put up some effort. Saxton took a standing eight-count in the first and second before being dropped at 1:29 of the second in a scheduled four. Rush refereed.

Promoter/Matchmaker: Floyd Patterson and Frank Florio
Attendance: 1,100 (estimated)
Judges: Jack Castellani, Frank Adams
Timekeeper: Bruce Speicher
Announcer: Sammy Mancuso
(9-7-89)

J.R. Jowett

TENNESSEE

►**MEMPHIS**—Omni-New Daisy Theatre—In the main bill, it was Covington's Chuck Glover, 148, squaring off against Nashville's **Reese Smith**, 142½, in a 10-round welterweight contest. Both fighters came out in round one throwing leather as if it were the last round. This action continued through round seven, with Smith gaining the edge. Late in round seven, Smith caught Glover with a hard uppercut that put him down for a short count. In round eight, Glover seemed to have overcome the knockdown, but Smith continued to be the aggressor. Round 10 was all Smith, as he came out throwing punches from start to finish. When the smoke had cleared, the judges had it scored 97-94, 97-94, and 97-96, all for Smith. This was by far the best fight the Omni-New Daisy Theatre has seen all year.

Middleweight Knox Brown

Memphian Knox Brown, 165, was declared the winner over Jackson's Roy Bedwell, 174, when Bedwell failed to answer the bell for round five. It was a scheduled six-round contest.

Anthony Campbell, 167, earned a six-round unanimous decision over Memphian Roberto Rockett, 170.

Ken Hulsey, 163¼, of Lynchburg, Tennessee, stopped Memphian Earl Jackson, 164, at 2:10 of the second round in a scheduled four.

Danny Ward, 198, of W. Memphis, Arkansas, scored a four-round split decision over Kim Adams, 215, Little Rock.

Jackson's Tim Dendy, 161, stopped Memphian John Simmons, 158¼, at 1:47 of the third round in a scheduled four-rounder.

In the opener, it was Nashville's Loren Ross, 192½, stopping Tony Nichols, 249, of Little Rock at 2:59 of the first round in a scheduled six-rounder.

Promoters: Tom Harmon and Mid-South Boxing, Inc.
Matchmaker: Red Fortner
Ring Announcer: Sleepy Rutherford
Judges: Sonny Hanks, Gilbert Beam, Don Thompson, James Perkins, Haywood Watts, Alex McCollum, and Mike Belmont.
Referees: Sam Garland and Jim Kidd
Timekeeper: Rod Cardone
Ringside Physician: Dr. Jeff Hoover
Attendance: 500 (estimated)
(9-5-89)

Michael Glenn

VIRGINIA

►**ROANOKE**—Valley Sports Arena—It took 16 years, but pro boxing came back to this Blue Ridge city, as promoter John Hagen, co-owner of the freshly scrubbed complex, plans to run shows on the first Saturday of each month. Good luck, John: *The Roanoke Times And World News* didn't bother to attend this show.

Thanks to the efforts of commissioner Doug Beavers, the inaugural card came off rather well, what with a generous helping of southern hospitality, a prompt 8 p.m. start as advertised, and reasonably priced tickets of $10 and $14.

The top bout had Portsmouth's **Ken "Magic" Shannon** at a rather overweight 173, take a busy and grueling 10-round unanimous decision over Dwight Hunter, 164, North Carolina via Baltimore. There was no need for a full-sized ring for this one. Shannon was in no shape to move. Hunter figured the out-of-condition Shannon would wear down, so he played into the winner's hands. The result was the same for every round: Hunter backed to the ropes or a corner and stayed there as Shannon continuously poured in the punches.

Hunter never got the opportunity he was waiting for. Shannon never gave him the necessary breathing room, smothering all attempts of countering or escape by Hunter.

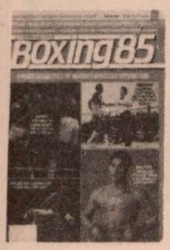
Shannon, who usually boxes at 154, was satisfied with his performance.

"Oh, yeah, I'm pleased," he said. "The key was to keep him back because my timing was off. I had to keep him close, and I did just that."

The judges, John Witt, Vaughan LaPrade, and Beeba Exton (who were announced only as "A", "B", and "C"), agreed, with tallies of 100-90, 100-90, and 99-91. *The Ring* had it a shutout. The referee was Al Rothenberg.

BACK ISSUES OF BOXING 85/89

From 1985-1987, the quarterly version of the magazine contained an 80-page "Greatest Hits" collection takes from the best of *KO, World Boxing,* and *Big Book Of Boxing.* Beginning in 1988, the magazine went monthly, containing all-new stories and features on boxing's hottest stars.



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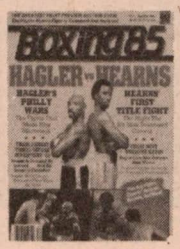

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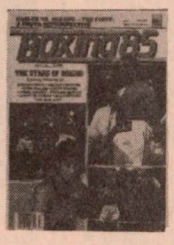

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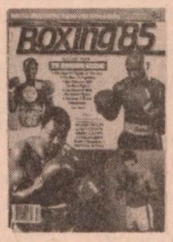

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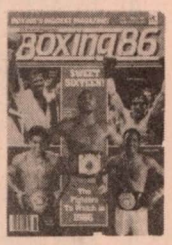

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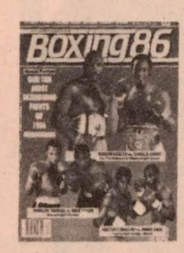

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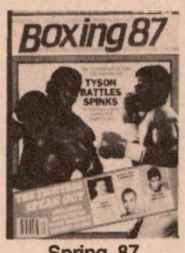

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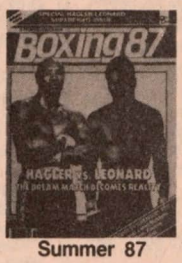

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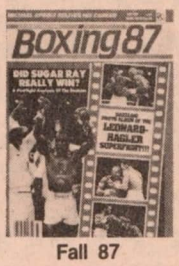

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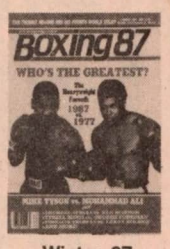

Winter 87

January 88

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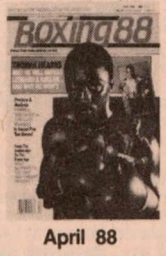

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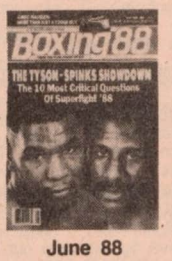

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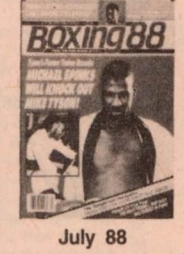

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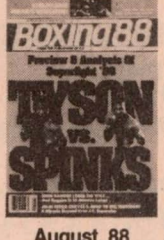

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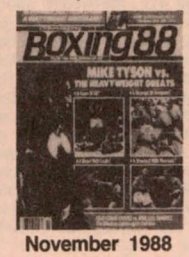

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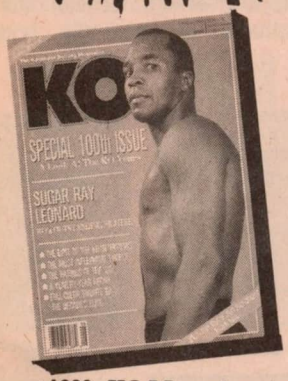

In August 1989, ***KO Magazine*** reached an important milestone: its 100th issue. The occasion was marked with a special 80-page edition that took an entertaining look back through the ***KO*** years, beginning in 1980. In addition to ***KO's*** regular features, the 100th issue included:

- The ratings of the '80s in each weight class
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Godfrey Johnson, 126, Richmond, took a four-round majority decision over Calvin Faggins, 127, Alexandria. The two came to fight, and Johnson took two scores of 39-37, and one even at 38-38. The referee was John Witt. Johnson is now 4-3, while Faggins is 2-2.

In another scheduled four, Mark "Buck" Buchanan, 154, Norfolk, turned pro and won by third-round TKO when David Woods, now 1-1, 153, Stafford, Virginia, was unable to answer the bell for the final session. The referee was Rothenberg.

Debuting Anthony Suggs, 139, Alexandria, took his four-rounder by kayo at 0:49 of the opening round over skinny Steve West, also making his pro debut, 143, Portsmouth. West got nailed by a right hand and took the full count of referee J.J. Johnson. Suggs, an amateur standout, could become something if handled correctly.

Wiry Darryl Richardson, 138, Portsmouth, dropped foe Allen Osborne, 138, Ohio, via Newport News, Virginia, in each of the first three rounds and went on to post a six-round unanimous win. The first two knockdowns came from long, over-the-top right hands, while the final flooring was from a left hook. Scores: 60-53, and two at 60-51. Referee was Rothenberg. The victor is reported to still have a losing record, while Osborne, back after a lengthy vacation, falls to 5-3.

Tracy Muse, 148, Baltimore, spoiled the debut of Newell Green, 150, Newport News, by taking a four-round unanimous decision. Muse, now a reported 6-2, was just too slick for the much slower Newell. Scores: two at 39-37, and one at 40-36. The referee was J.J. Johnson.

The guarded Willie Galiwango, 151, Uganda via Richmond, raised his record to 11-0-1 when he took his scheduled six by TKO at 2:30 of the third over a crude but determined Linwood Doyle, 157, Norfolk. The wild-swinging Doyle, now listed as 2-1, was given a standing eight-count in the first, and was dropped twice in the third before referee Witt wisely stopped it.

Matchmaker: Mike Vaughn.
Attendance: 550 (estimated)
Judges: Witt, LaPrade, Exton, Johnson, and Rothenberg.
(9-2-89)

Jack Obermayer

WEST VIRGINIA

►**PARKERSBURG**—Holiday Inn, Marquette Room: The life of a promoter, at any level, can be hair-raising. (Case in point: Don King). The reason is because fighters unexpectedly cancel at the last minute. This can be particularly difficult in small-time promotions because the pool of replacement fighters is much smaller.

"We had three fighters drop out due to injury, and two more (Rita Mae Rodriguez and Pete Wajda) were involved in car accidents," promoter Jerry Thomas said. "Wajda injured himself during, of all things, a demolition derby. They had signed him up to participate in another derby, but he couldn't do it."

The main event saw **Jeff Stamm**, 173, defeat local favorite John Loscar, 172, on a six-round split decision. Though Stamm appeared to win every round handily, the judges scored it 28-26 and 28-26 for Stamm, and 27-26 (although it was announced 32-31) for Loscar.

Stamm continually beat Loscar to the punch, catching him with two- and three-punch flurries before Loscar could react. Whenever Loscar trapped Stamm on the ropes, Stamm smartly spun off and clinched or nailed Loscar with a quick barrage.

At times, the fight, to put it nicely, transcended the Marquis of Queensberry rules. The boxers butted heads, hit on the break, pushed each other to the ropes, and connected with punches behind the head and to the back.

A disappointed Loscar claimed the fouling was a contributing factor to his loss.

"The referee should have broken us up the moment we clinched. Instead, he let Stamm hit me with four or five punches. Next time, they should get a referee who knows what he's doing."

The incessant fouling, and Loscar's frustration, contributed to a potentially ugly scene moments after the final bell. The two fighters yelled at one another and Stamm spat at Loscar. Loscar responded by charging with his right hand cocked, and Stamm, a professional kick-boxer, kicked at Loscar's legs. Loscar's cornermen eventually stepped between the fighters before anything else could happen.

"He came after me because he knew he lost the fight," Stamm said. "I knew that would happen because he's a dirty fighter. I had all the respect in the world for him until he started talking about me in the papers."

The promoter billed this fight as a grudge match. The rivalry began in the gym, when a sparring session turned into a war.

Stamm will now fight Parkersburg's Gary Wolfe for the vacant West Virginia light heavyweight title, probably on November 30.

In the co-feature, state welterweight titlist Tommy Small, 147, Beckley, impressively TKO'd Cleveland's Louis Mann, 142, at 2:10 of the first round. A left hook, followed by a left-right combination, dumped Mann for a two-count one minute into the bout. A solid right lead to the chin produced the final knockdown. Up at the count of nine, Mann conceded the fight and proceeded to storm around the ring, clearly disgusted with himself.

The card's best fight was contested between state cruiserweight champion Bert Gravely, 187, Beckley, and Roger Hurd, 189, Parkersburg. Gravely pitched a 20-16 shutout over Hurd *(The Ring* scored it 19-17 for Gravely), but it was one of the most competitive shutouts in recent memory.

Hurd's strong lead right won him the first round on *The Ring's* card, but Gravely swept the final three sessions with his smart combination punching. Several times, Gravely jarred Hurd's chin with uppercuts and left-rights, but Hurd bravely withstood everything and roared back with head-snapping rights that caught Gravely coming in.

Andrea DeSong, 135, Cambridge, raised her record to 3-0 with a second- round TKO of Cleveland's Sharon Taylor in a four-round female bout. DeSong's whirlwind attack dropped Taylor twice in the first and once more in the second. The final knockdown saw Taylor flat on her face, and the bout was stopped at the 57-second mark.

Southpaw Verselle "Machine Gun" Curry, 140, Beckley, had a successful pro debut as he scored a four-round unanimous decision over Gus Brunoni, 142, New Matamoras, Ohio. Bent on proving his nickname, Curry unleashed a rapid fire 22-punch flurry in the first (none of which landed) and a 26-punch salvo in the third (two landed). There was lots of clowning by both combatants, and Curry won with occasional wide-arching lefts to the body.

Perennial loser "Jolting Gene Holley", 154, Ashtabula, kept his reputation intact as he fell to 1988 National Golden Gloves welterweight champion Roger Turner, 150, Lansing, Michigan, at 1:52 of the first round. A grazing left hook-right cross combo decked Holley one minute into the round.

Up at nine, Holley shook his head as if he wanted to quit, but decided to go on. A right cross-left hook produced the final knockdown. Turner upped his record to 8-0.

"Iron" Mike Posey, a former toughman champion, knocked out Ashtabula's Nate Spears at 33 seconds of the second round. Spears dominated the first round until a cuffing left jab knocked down the off-balance Spears 15 seconds before the bell. Rising at four, the woozy Spears was dropped at the bell with a clubbing, but grazing right.

Posey scored his third knockdown seconds into the next round with a devastating flurry of phantom punches, and Spears arose with a face masked with "pain." Posey finished the job with another four-punch combination, none of which landed.

The most disgusting display of a fighter's lack of heart occurred when 6-11 Marselles Brown, 214, St. Louis, scored a technical knockout over J.R. Nichols, 230, Cleveland. Nichols came out extremely aggressive, charging at "The Fighting Basketball Player" with his head down, flailing away with body punches.

Thirty-five seconds into the bout, the exhausted Nichols dropped to his knees without being hit, arose at eight, shook his head, and simply quit. The fans lustily booed Nichols. Brown, who intends to play college basketball while pursuing a boxing career, was equally appalled with his opponent's non-effort.

Promoter: Jerry Thomas, West Virginia Sports Promotion
Referees: Dave Johnson, Butch McNeely
Judges: Mike Beckett, Judy Post, and alternate referee.
Timekeeper: Gordon Monroe
Physician: Dr. Rick Yocum
Attendance: 400 (estimated)
(9-8-89)

Lee Groves

MEXICO

►**TIJUANA**—Tijuana Auditorium—WBA junior featherweight titleholder **Juan Jose Estrada** retained his belt with a unanimous 12-round decision over Colombian challenger Luis Mendoza in front of a near-capacity crowd of Mexican partisans. It was a hard-fought contest, and Estrada admitted it may have been the toughest fight of his career.

Juan Jose Estrada celebrates

Estrada, 122, was nearly lifted off his feet by a right uppercut in the second round, but luckily for "Dynamita," the telling blow came near the end of the round.

The defending champ regained control in the third, throwing vicious body shots that appeared to hurt the challenger. Mendoza, 121, came on down the stretch, but it was a typical case of too little, too late. Overall, an excellent scrap.
(7-10-89)

►**MEXICO CITY**—Coliseo—Lightweight **Antonio "Rayo" Garcia** improved his log to 28-5-1 (24)) with a knockout over Juan Estrada at 1:31 of the eighth round. A right to the chin floored Estrada, who slipped to 14-1 (12), for the 10-count.

In a lightweight semifinal, Jose Mendez outpointed Gerardo Sanchez over 10 rounds.

Juan Manuel Chavez decisioned Daniel Pinson in a bantamweight eight-rounder.

Javier Vazquez TKO'd Rodolfo Sosa in the fourth round of a welterweight bout.
(6-24-89)

►**MEXICO CITY**—Coliseo—Super flyweight **Armando "Jaibe" Salazar** bombed out Gonzalo Villalobos at 2:28 of the third round. Salazar nailed Villalobos, who was counted out on his knees, with a left uppercut and big right hand.

Flyweight Alejandro Sanabria starched Gregorio Guerrero in the opening stanza.

In another flyweight bout, Martin Alvarez won a unanimous six-round decision over Luis Amaro.

Lightweight action between Albertano Garcia and Victor Manuel Alvarez ended in a four-round majority draw.
(6-17-89)

►**PIEDRAS NEGARS**—**Javier Diaz** won the Mexican flyweight title with a 12-round decision over defending champ Willie Salazar, who was making his third defense of his second reign.
(6-16-89)

►**CULIACAN**—**Ramon Arreloa** came on strong the last two rounds to win a 10-round decision over Israel Vega in a bantamweight match.

In other bantam action, Felipe Torres KO'd Martin Moreno in the second round.
(6-16-89)

►**ACAPULCO**—Bantamweight comer **Javier Leon** upped his unbeaten log to 27-0 with a sixth-round TKO over Alejo Garcia.

Three flyweight bouts highlighted the undercard. Herminio Ramirez fought a four-round technical draw with Pedro Diaz. Agustin Cardenas TKO'd Modesto Diaz in six. And Marco Antonio Zuniga TKO'd Carlos Perez in four.
(6-16-89)

►**GUADALJARA**—**Ruben Cortina** retained the Jalisco State middleweight title with a third-round kayo over Jesus Castaneda.

Ismael Rodriguez won the State mini-flyweight belt with a second-round TKO over Gabriel Aguirre.

In the third State title bout, Teodoro Larlos TKO'd Juan Jose Guerrero in the sixth round to retain the 135-pound crown.
(6-16-89)

►**LA PAZ**—Heavyweight **Francisco Beltran** zapped Manuel Espinoza for a second-round kayo.

Luis Rodriguez KO'd Martin Tiznado in the fourth round of a featherweight bout.
(6-16-89)

►**MEXICALI**—Tall southpaw **Rodolfo "Cobra" Gomez**, Nuevo Laredo, stopped defending champ Jorge Ramirez, Hermosillo, on a third-round TKO to capture the Mexican super featherweight belt. Gomez outboxed Ramirez, using combinations and good right hooks to up his record to 15-3. Ramirez, who suffered a cut near his right eye, fell to 34-10-4.

Lenny Valdez, Mexicali, TKO'd Felipe DeJesus, San Luis Rio Colorado, on a cut eye in round six.

Mario Gomez TKO'd Mario Antonio Ramirez in the sixth round of a featherweight bout.

Oscar Lopez KO'd Manuel Gomez in the sixth round of another featherweight contest.

Jesus Ramirez KO'd Rosario Guerrero in the fourth round of a welterweight match.

Jose Luis Montiel outpointed Cruz Molina in a four-round flyweight bout.
(6-16-89)

►**MEXICO CITY**—In a battle of welterweights, **Felipe Fuentes** raised his log to 19-1-1 with a TKO over Felipe Rojas at 2:45 of the second round.

Gregorio Vargas TKO'd Raymundo Martin in the second round of a featherweight bout.

Lightweight Aaron Zarate TKO'd Enrique Picazo in the opening round.

Manuel Tepanecati disposed of Clemente Flores in the second round of a bantamweight match.

Cuauhtemoc Sanchez ousted Geronimo de la Cruz in the first round of a featherweight clash.

Silvestre Mollado won a majority six-round decision over Felipe Gamboa in a flyweight bout.
(6-10-89)

►**JUAREZ**—Lightweight **Santos "Apache" Moreno** won a 10-round unanimous decision over Martin Galvan in a bout that saw both fighters down in the first round from simultaneous punches.

In welterweight action, Gabriel Macias TKO'd David Lopez in the fourth round.

Martin Lopez KO'd Luis Badillo in the second round of a middleweight bout.

Jose de Jesus Garcia, a member of the '88 Mexican Olympic team, ran his pro log to 5-0 with a fourth-round kayo over Pedro Corral in a bantamweight bout.
(6-9-89)

►**NUEVO LARADO**—In a battle of former Mexican heavyweight champions, **Arturo "King Kong" Diaz** decisioned Fernando "Toto" Montes over 10 rounds.

In a flyweight bout, Jacinto Escalante outpointed Roy Hernandez over 10 rounds.

Gabino Mendoza kayoed Felipe Nino in the eighth round of a welterweight bout.
(6-9-89)

►**TOLUCA**—Lightweight **Jose Luis Mendoza** outpointed Juan Sauz over 10 rounds.

Juan Vasquez decisioned Marcos Bernal in a 10-round welterweight bout.

Flyweight action saw Wilfredo Gonzalez ice Fernando Roldan in the fourth round.

In a quick welterweight contest, Raul Hulcochea blitzed San Marco Ramirez in the first stanza.
(6-9-89)

►**MADERA**—Lightweight **Juan Garcia** KO'd Ramon Flores in the sixth round.

Middleweight Cruz Flores won a 10-round decision over Luis Duran.

Luis Alberto Cepeda KO'd Cyclone Rodriguez in the fifth round of a bantamweight bout.
(6-4-89)

►**MEXICO CITY**—Coliseo—**Otilio Gallegos** took a unanimous decision over Arturo Mendoza by scores of 97-95, 99-91, and 97-93. Gallegos dropped Mendoza in the first round of the 10-round bantamweight battle. It was Gallegos' second decision over Mendoza.

Mexican Olympian (1988) Humberto Rodriguez remained unbeaten by stopping David Cruz in the first round of a super lightweight matchup. Rodriguez is now 3-0 with three first-round stoppages.

Other bouts included: lightweight Guillermo Cruz TKO 7 over Raul Feregrino; Jesus Montiel earned a unanimous points victory over Juan Carlos Ortigoza in a six-round bantamweight battle; featherweight Jose Montes copped a six-round decision from Marco Antonio Lopez.
(6-3-89)

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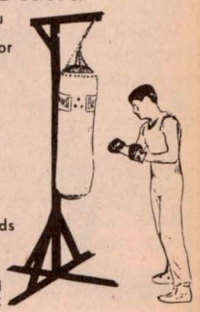

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►**MERIDA**—Mexican mini-flyweight champ **Javier Varguez** won a unanimous 10-round decision over Guillermo Flores in a non-title bout. Flores was floored in the first.

In flyweight action, Juan Diego Arjona TKO'd Ricardo Aguillar in the second round.

Also in the flyweight division, Juan Gonzalez won a six-round unanimous decision over Jose Martin. (6-3-89)

►**MEXICALI**—**Eduardo "Fili" Montoya** retained his Mexican featherweight title by scoring a unanimous 12-round decision over Juan "Changuita" Marquez. Montoya, who landed the more telling blows, won by scores of 118-116, 118-116, and 118-115. Montoya improved to 16-2-1 (12), while Marquez fell to 32-8-5 (17).

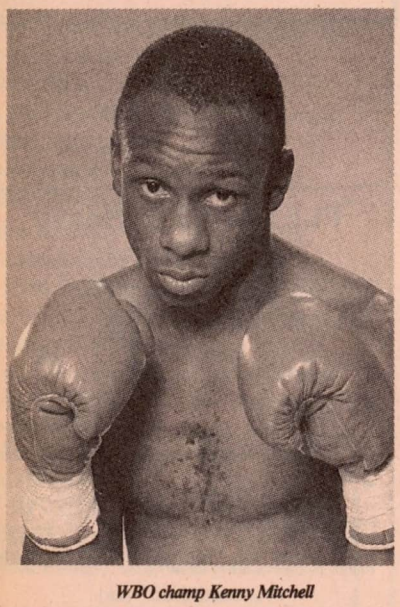
On the undercard, Raul Franco took a split decision over Alfaro Bojorquez. In a super featherweight matchup, featherweight Salvador Zamora TKO'd Luis Moreno in six rounds. Flyweight Cuauhtemoc Gomez stopped Armando Torres in three rounds. (6-2-89)

PUERTO RICO

►**SAN JUAN**—Roberto Clemente Stadium—**Jose "Cheito" Ruiz** retained his WBO junior flyweight title when he scored a surprisingly fast and easy one- round knockout over fellow islander Juan Carazo.

A right hand-left hook combination to the jaw dropped Carazo early in the round. Sensing that his opponent was badly hurt, Ruiz wasted no time in stepping up his attack and floored Carazo on two more occasions. Referee Roberto Ramirez signaled the fight's end because of the three-knockdown rule. This was hotly protested by Carazo's manager, who alleged his charge was pushed to the canvas on what was ruled a knockdown. Ruiz had won the vacant WBO title when he scored a 12-round decision over Colombian Baby Rojas. Carazo's last start was a close losing effort to Gilberto Roman, for the WBC 115-pound title.

In the co-feature, **Kenny Mitchell** retained his



WBO champ Kenny Mitchell

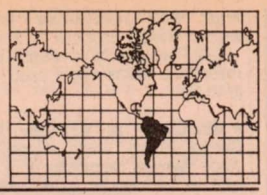
WBO junior featherweight title when he scored an easy 12-round win over South African Simon Skosana. Skosana fought a simple fight, and the least said about this dull and drab affair, the better.

In a scheduled 10-rounder, South African heavyweight Pierre Coetzer scored an easy one-round knockout over Bobby Hitz in preparation for a WBO heavyweight title fight against champion Francesco Damiani.

Super flyweight, Wilfredo Vargas, 8-1, registered a seventh-round kayo over Jose DeJesus in a fight that was marred by Vargas' illegal blows. In the fifth, referee Waldemar Schmidt took points away from Vargas for hitting his opponent while on the canvas.

Featherweight Rario Cordero flattened Mexican rival Ramiro Adames in the fifth with a left hook. And South African featherweight Petrus Mahlangu kayoed Victor Martinez in the second. (9-9-89)

Mario Rivera Martino



SOUTH AMERICA

NETHERLAND ANTILLES

►**CURACAO**—Holiday Beach Hotel—**Eloy "El Verdugo" Rojas**, featherweight champion of Venezuela, KO'd Peru's Ernesto "Inca" Quintana at 1:13 of the sixth round in their match for the WBA Latin American title.

Quintana, 124¾, set a torrid pace from the first bell with his aggressive bobbing and weaving style. But Rojas, 124¾, showed superior boxing skills and countered well. Rojas took control in the sixth and cornered the defending champion, flooring him with three successive right crosses to the head. It was a dramatic ending to what had been the hardest fought bout this reporter has seen in more than three decades of covering boxing.

Rojas, a potential world champion, improved his record to 13-0 (10). Quintana fell to 17-2 (9).

Luis Garcia, Venezuela, raised his record to 17-0 (15), knocking out Guyana's Barry Cambridge at 2:15 of the first round in a welterweight bout. Cambridge, who didn't look seriously hurt, slipped to 16-3-1.

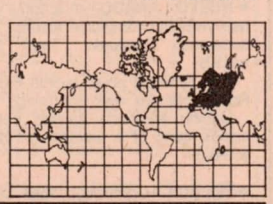
Ismaldi Pineda, Colombia, upped his record to 20-1 when Manuel Rodrigues, Santo Domingo, retired at the end of the eighth round of a scheduled 10-round lightweight match.

Venezuela's David Griman blasted Santo Domingo's Fernando Mateo for a second-round TKO. Mateo was down twice before his seconds ran into the ring after the referee had ignored a thrown towel. Both men weighed 114.

Danny Nunez, Santo Domingo, survived a first-round knockdown to TKO Venezuela's Felix Zapata at 1:06 of the second round of a bantamweight bout.

Promoter: Octopus Productions
(7-7-89)

Will R. Boodhoo



EUROPE

FRANCE

►**PARIS**—Ugandan slugger **John "The Beast" Mugabi** finally won a world title, but it took a strange twist of fate to accomplish the task.

Defending IBF junior middleweight titleholder Rene Jacquot went down to defeat in the first round under bizarre circumstances. Action had barely begun when Jacquot fell awkwardly to the canvas with his left leg bent under him. The charging Mugabi had just missed with a right hand and the Frenchman seemed to fall more as the result of trying to avoid Mugabi's punch than from its effects.

Mugabi dethrones Jacquot

Referee Arthur Mercante rule it a slip and ordered the men to box on, but Jacquot was in obvious pain and could hardly stand. Mugabi barreled forward and bowled Jacquot over again. The defending champ painfully hobbled back to his corner as Mercante tried to decide what to do next. After a slight delay, the referee went to Mugabi's corner, ruled him a KO winner and raised his arm in victory.

Jacquot, whose record fell to 25-7-1, was extremely unlucky to lose the belt in this manner and will probably get a rematch as soon as his torn knee ligament is repaired. Mugabi, fighting in front of approximately 10,000 French fans in a special open air stadium erected in a suburban amusement park, raised his record to 34-2 (34).

In another weird ending, Welsh super middleweight Simon Collins and American Willie Monroe had their bout ruled a no-contest when the stadium lights failed in the fifth round of a scheduled eight-rounder. It had been a close, well-contested fight until the unscheduled ending.

French-Tunisian Hadjallah Ikleff outpointed Argentina's Miguel Angel Arroyo in a close, give-and-take middleweight eight-rounder.

In another middleweight bout, Frenchman Gilbert Dele comfortably outpointed American Jake Torrance over eight rounds.

Southpaw Antoine Fernandez impressed with a first-round TKO over American Brian Young in a welterweight scrap. Young was down twice before the referee rescued him.

Martin Camara won a close eight-round decision over Marc Ruocco in a middleweight bout. Ruocco scored with some good rights, but Camara's jab was dominant.

Lightweight Pierre Lorcy also showed a good jab, stopping Eric Corroyez in the fifth round of a scheduled six-rounder.

Middleweight Frank Nicitra displayed good hand speed to stop Carlos Martin after three rounds.

Promoters: Louis & Michel Acaries
(7-8-89)

ITALY

►**FROSINONE**—**Fabrice Benichou**, of France, successfully defended his IBF junior featherweight title, by knocking out Francie Badenhorst, South Africa, in the fifth round. It was the first defense for Benichou, who lifted his record to 24-8. (6-10-89)

►**POMESIA**—**Mwehue Beya** retained his Italian light heavyweight title with a 12-round split decision over previously unbeaten Mauro Galvano. The Zaire-born Beya improved to 11-5-3 and Galvano dropped to 11-1-2. The two previously had fought to a draw.

On the undercard, Antonio De Santis and Francisco Garcia, Belgium, battled to an eight-round draw. (6-9-89)

►**FROSINONE**—Olympic champion **Giovanni Parisi** stopped American Bobby Moore in the first round of their lightweight bout. Parisi is unbeaten in five fights, with four knockouts.

On the undercard, Piero Morello copped a six-round decision from Rafael Gandarilla, Mexico. (6-9-89)

FINLAND

►**HELSINKI**—Toolo Sports Hall—**Joni Nyman**, Jarveenpaa, Finland, was unimpressive as he took a unanimous six-round decision over 32-year-old Yugoslavian Simisa Popovic. Nyman, fighting for the first time since his disastrous first-round kayo loss to Tanzanian Bozon Haule, looked sloppy and tentative in this welterweight contest. But he did improve to 3-1 (2).

On the contrary, Hannu "The Hammer" Vuorinen excited the crowd by scoring a fourth-round TKO over stubborn, but outclassed, Magdy el-Hadedi.

Vuorinen, a light middleweight from Helsinki, took control after two rounds and pummeled the Austrian-based Egyptian until the towel came in. Vuorinen rose to 3-0-1, all wins inside the distance.

In the third six-rounder, Jan Nyholm, 141, Helsinki, struggled with tall Yugoslavian Josif Raje, 140, but managed to take a unanimous decision for his

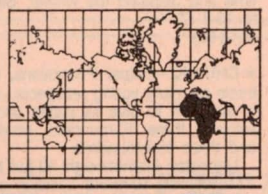
fourth straight win.

Jose Tuominen, 135¼, Helsinki, gave his usual all-action fight and won a four-round decision over Facal Bejaou, 134¼, Tunisia.

In the opener, Jari Gronroos, 130, Helsinki, outpointed Hermann Leber, 126½, over four rounds.

Promoters: Simeon Karkkainen, Tom Sjoberg
(5-8-89)

Petri Paimander



AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

►**SUN CITY, BOPHUTSWANA**—The IBF's number two-rated bantamweight, **Welcome Ncita,** 118½, thoroughly outclassed Vidal Tellez, 118½, and pounded out a TKO when Tellez refused to come out for round six. Ncita is 24-0 (12).

Grant Messias, 138½, defeated Heginio de Leona, 138½, on points to raise his record to 10-1-1.

Sakkie Horn, 173½, the South African light heavyweight champion, knocked out Mlungisi Zondi, 172½, in a non-title fight that doubled as a mismatch.

Corrie Sanders, 214, scored three knockdowns in the third round to earn a TKO over Gideon Hlongwa, 219. Sanders is 4-0 (3).

Jacques Smith, a top South African welterweight who is 6-0 (6), endured repeated heavy blows by David Diholo and rallied to send Diholo to the canvas with a short left hook in the fifth for the knockout.

In a middleight fight, Brian Harrman knocked out Charlie Kgang in the third round.
(8-5-89)

►**UTTENHAGE**—It really wasn't much of a contest when **Vuyani Nana**, 110½, won on points over Augustin Garcia, 111¼. After all, Nana, the South African junior flyweight champion who is rated third by the WBO, scored four knockdowns. Nana, who has won 21 fights in a row, is 25-1-0 (17).
(8-6-89)

►**JOHANNESBURG**—Fans in these parts are calling the fight between **Charles Costhuizen**, 158¾, and Paul Toweel, 158, "the fight of the year." It featured the aggressive free-swinging of Toweel and the long left jab of Costhuizen. Toweel scored knockdowns in the eighth and ninth rounds. Then Costhuizen lashed out in the 10th and final round to earn the decision.

In other action, welterweight Mathies Mbatha decisioned Dominque Kayter and middleweight Blessing Masinga decisioned Victor Guaede.
(8-6-89)

►**JOHANNESBURG—November Ntshingila**, 125¾, connected with a five-punch combination followed by a three-punch combo to the head as he knocked out Stanley Matha, 126¾. Ntshingila is 15-0-0 (11).

Other action featured Joseph White, 123, earning a fourth-round TKO over Jacob Mefokeng, 129¼, while welterweight Andrew Methiyi beat Frans Mthimunya on points. Ruphus Seanego TKOd Dawie du Plessis in a junior welterweight fight.
(8-3-89)

►**DURBAN**—In a junior welterweight fight, **Moses Sodera** kayoed Meshack Mephalala, while Gerry Mthembu knocked out Thabana Ndloou in bantamweight action.
(8-14-89)

►**PORT ELIZABETH**—The shorter **Jacob Matlala** stayed closed and administered a bruising body attack to take a 10-round decision from Martin Cardenes in flyweight action.
(8-14-89)

►**JOHANNESBURG**—There was no doubt from the outset who was in charge when **Aaron Kabi**, 138, TKO'd Frederick Siswana, 140, to regain the Transvaal junior welterweight title from Siswana. Kabi made good on his promise to beat the man who upset him last February.

Kosia van Vuuren, 173, TKO'd Reginald Mazingana, 172, in two rounds; Daniel Ward, 110¾, knocked out Stanley Nkate, 111, in three rounds; Samson Mahlangu, 191½, outpointed Abram Malandi, 219.
(8-20-89)

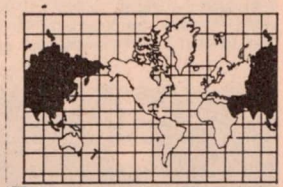
►**DURBAN**—South African junior welterweight champion **Nika Khumalo**, 140¾, had no trouble with Gerardo Velasquez, 138, winning on points. Khumalo won the first four rounds, slowed down midway through the bout, and came to life in the eighth when he floored Velasquez. Khumalo is 28-3-2. Sydney Msuthu outpointed Tollie Enslin in welterweight action.
(8-21-89)

►**JOHANNESBURG**—Although **Chris Peters** won the Transvaal welterweight title with a split decision over Ndlazi Moulali, make no mistake: This was a grueling contest, as each man slugged one another relentlessly.
(8-27-89)

►**CAPETOWN**—It's always good to keep your title, but **Fransie Badenhorst**, 120¼, did it the hard way as he outpointed Vuyani Bungu, 120¾. To Badenhorst's credit, he registered three knockdowns of Bungu in the first five rounds. But Bungu recovered and floored the champion in the seventh round, cutting his eye badly. Then a horrific volley of punches left Badenhorst groggy in the ninth. But Badenhorst won the final two rounds and the fight by scores of 116-112, 116-110, and 116-114. It was Badenhorst's first fight since being knocked out in five by Fabrice Benichou in an IBF title fight.

In other action, Derrick Whiteboy scored a seventh-round TKO over Vuyani Maneli; Patrick Mbamba outpointed Mzanele Gubavu while scoring several knockdowns in their junior lightweight fight; featherweight Sidwell Sikalika earned a draw over Theophyllus Tshafu; Travor Whiteboy outpointed Maxwell Tshazi in junior welterweight action.
(8-28-89)

Simmie Lewis



THE ORIENT

JAPAN

►**TOKYO**—Japanese junior bantamweight champ **Shunichi Nakajima** retained his belt with a TKO over Tatsuya Sugi at 11 seconds of the sixth round when Sugi suffered a bad eye cut. The winner upped his slate to 20-4 (11).
(6-27-89)

►**TOKYO—Noboru Godai**, 134¼, retained the Japanese lightweight title with a fourth-round kayo over Shigenori Motoi, 134½. Godai, managed by Japanese legend Fighting Harada, was in control from the start and saw his record improve to 24-4-2 (9). Motoi, who hit the deck three times in the fatal fourth, fell to 8-7-1 (8).
(6-24-89)

►**TOKYO**—Former Japanese lightweight champion **Iwao Otomo**, 135, won the OPBF crown with a TKO over Korean Bong-Choon Park, 134, at 1:13 of the fifth round. Park dominated the early rounds with his superior infighting, but Otomo, known as the Rocky Graziano of Japan, landed a tremendous roundhouse right to the head to drop and finish the defending titleholder. The brawling Otomo raised his record to 20-3-2 (18), while Park slid to 13-10-7 (4).
(6-19-89)

►**TOKYO**—Handsome Kengo Fukuda, a boxer who also doubles as a movie star and is very popular with female fans, fell short in his exciting bid to win the national featherweight title when defending champ **Seiji Asakawa** scored an impressive TKO at 2:01 of the second round.

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In the thrilling opening round, Fukuda floored Asakawa with a sharp right, only to have the Japanese titleholder return the compliment with a right of his own. In the second, Asakawa swarmed all over Fukuda, sending him crashing to the canvas with another right. The challenger beat the count, but was quickly floored two more times before being rescued by the referee.

Asakawa, 126, improved to 12-1-1 (8), while Fukuda, 126, fell to 15-2-1 (10).

Manabu Saijyo, 121½, KO'd Sang-Yom Choi, 121½, in the third round.
(6-17-89)

►**TOKYO—Crusher Miru**, 118, captured the Japanese bantamweight title with a 10-round unanimous decision over Keiicho Ozaki, 117½. Miru started and finished strongly to raise his log to 14-4-1 (10), while Ozaki slipped to 15-13-1 (2).
(6-12-89)

►**OSAKA**—Thai lefty **Napa Kiatwanchai** retained the WBC strawweight title with a TKO over ex-champ Hiroki Ioka, Japan, at 1:12 of the 11th round of a scheduled 12-rounder.

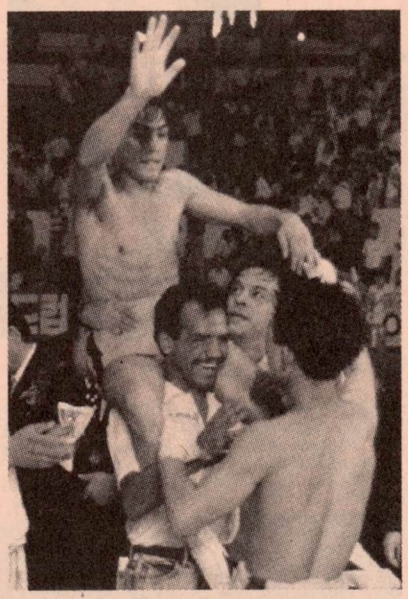
This rubber match was dominated by Kiatwanchai, 103, who dropped Ioka, 105, with a right hand in the fifth and finished him with two more knockdowns in the 11th. The defending champ upped his record to 10-0-1 (5), while the once-promising Ioka fell to 11-2-1 (7). The bout was refereed by American Marty Denkin.

Topping the undercard was Kenbun Taiho, 112, who retained his Japanese flyweight title with a 12-round decision over Yosuke Matsuoka, 112.
(6-10-89)

SOUTH KOREA

►**CHUNJU**—Mexican switch-hitter **Humberto Gonzalez** won the WBC junior flyweight title with a unanimous 12-round decision over Korean Yul-Woo Lee by scores of 115-113 (Marty Sammon), 116-113 (Dalby Shirley), and 117-114 (Rafael Cartaya).

Lee, making the first defense of the belt he won from German Torres, got off to a fast start, but ran out of gas the second half of the match. Gonzalez dominated the last six rounds and was the obvious victor. He raised his record to 24-0 (20), while Lee, who suffered a badly swollen left eye, fell to 17-2 (10).



Gonzalez wins the title

In the bantamweight semifinal, veteran Mexican journeyman Diego Avila came off the floor to box a 10-round draw with Korean prospect Sok-Hue Cho. Avila, who fought his way back into the contest with his fine left jab, is 34-18-5 (16), while Cho, who faded in the late rounds, is 18-1-2 (6).

In another supporting 10-rounder, Chang-Kyun Oh survived a second-round knockdown to rally back and kayo Filipino bantamweight king Loremer Pontino at 1:38 of the fifth round. The crowd-pleasing bout saw Oh improve to 25-4-3 (12), and Pontino slip to 33-6-1 (26).
(6-25-89)

►**SEOUL**—Korean bantamweight champ **Yong-Hun Lee** needed just 143 seconds to register three knockdowns over Thai Sombutr Eausampan, scoring a KO in the opening round of a scheduled 10-rounder. Lee stayed unbeaten, raising his record to 13-0 (7).

Man-Soo Kim extended his pro record to 6-0 with a technical decision over Thai featherweight champ Jimmy Sithpaidang. The bout was stopped at the end of the seventh because Kim was bleeding profusely. He was leading on the scorecards at the time and declared the winner. Sithpaidang slipped to 13-2 (7).
(6-18-89)

►**CHUNJU**—Palpal Promotions, which holds contracts on many young prospects, ran a lengthy card in an effort to give its stable some work. The bill featured three 10-rounders, seven eight-rounders, and three four-rounders.

Unbeaten featherweight **Ki-jun Lee** ran his log to 13-0 (9) with 10-round decision over Puerto Rican Orlando Fernandez.

Sang-Moon Suh seized the Korean welterweight title with a kayo over Yong-Soo Kim at 2:09 of the fifth round. Suh lifted his record to 12-2-1 (7), while the dethroned champ fell to 8-4-1 (3).

In the third 10-rounder, Joung-Keun Lim decisioned Chong-Kwon Park over 10 rounds.
(6-17-89)

►**CHUNJU**—Former OPBF super lightweight titleholder **Kyung-Duk Ahn** proved too strong for Mexican Rodolfo Batta, landing a right uppercut to flatten Batta at 2:40 of the second round in a scheduled 10-rounder. The winner is 27-1 (11), while the loser is 32-7 (24).

Former amateur star Kang-Suk Lee turned pro by outpointing Filipino Rudy Cabiles over eight rounds to top the preliminaries.
(6-4-89)

PHILIPPINES

►**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY**—A new national flyweight champion was crowned when **Rico Siadora** won a unanimous 12-round decision over Rod Naiconi. The title had been vacated by Romy Navarrete when he won the OPBF crown in April.
(6-26-89)

►**MANILA**—Rizal Memorial Coliseum—Former IBF flyweight champ **Dodie Boy Penalosa** overpowered Indonesian Yossy Amnifu, dropping him twice en route to a fifth-round kayo. Penalosa is hoping to challenge current IBF champ **Dave McAuley**, and is willing to travel to England to do so.

In the main support, flyweight Pretty Boy Lucas looked bad, but still managed to eke out a unanimous 10-round decision over Fred Tepait.
(6-26-89)

►**CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY**—Neglected veteran **Rod Sequenan** upset the IBF's top-rated junior welterweight **Jongjong Pacquing**, scoring a third-round knockout. Pacquing was supposed to challenge IBF champ Meldrick Taylor, but his loss to lefty Sequenan ruined those plans. A very costly tune-up!
(6-16-89)

THAILAND

►**BANGKOK**—Rajadamnern Stadium—WBA bantamweight titleholder **Kaokor Galaxy** regained the crown from previously unbeaten Korean Sung-Kil Moon via an unexpectedly one-sided 12-round decision. The scores were 119-112 (Ken Morita) and 120-109 twice (Larry Rosadilla and Fritz Werner).

Galaxy, the twin brother of WBA junior bantam boss Kaosai Galaxy, had lost the title to Moon via a technical decision last year. This time, southpaw Galaxy dominated the bout with clever boxing and powerful punching. He dropped Moon twice in the 11th round, but Japanese referee Masakazu Uchida allowed the fading champ to continue. The heat and humidity inside the arena was a terrible burden, but both men bravely lasted the distance.
(7-9-89)

● **Notes:** The economic situation in Thailand is improving, but boxing still has a tough time. Thai TV networks do not pay big money to televise so-called world title bouts. Sometimes, the promoters have to pay TV networks to broadcast title fights nationwide. The gate receipts for even well-attended cards are also small because ticket prices are very low. For the time being, Thai fighters and their managers have to travel abroad to gain good purses.

Joe Koizumi

IN THIS CORNER

HENRY ELESPURU
(Referee)

By Christopher Coats

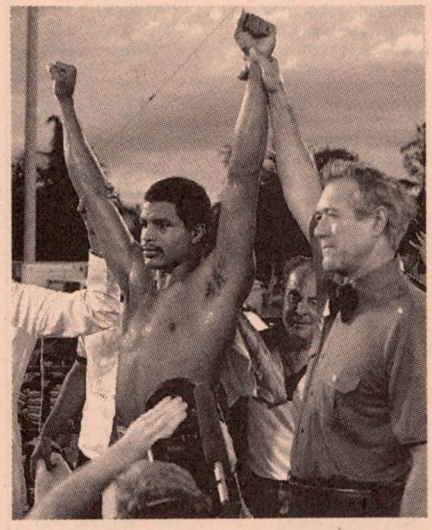
WHEN IT COMES to watching a prizefight up-close and personal, you can forget about those who pay big bucks for a ringside seat. The same goes for the newspaper reporters and photographers leaning against the ring apron. No one is closer to the action than the referee.

One of the best-known referees on the West Coast is Henry Elespuru. The 61-year-old Elespuru, a resident of Sacramento, has lost count of the fights he's worked. One of the WBC's premier referees, he's been involved in dozens of world title bouts as a referee and judge. It's a lifestyle he loves.

Many Hollywood films about boxing feature the same type of characters who appear in gangster movies: hard, uneducated guys who gargle four-letter words to clean their teeth. But that's not Henry Elespuru. He's made his living and supported his family as a coach of college sports, teaching baseball, football, basketball, and boxing (which was once a major collegiate sport.) He drives a pick-up truck, plays racquetball, takes vitamins, and loves John Wayne movies. If Elespuru missed three days shaving, he still wouldn't pass for anything less than a Boy Scout leader.

Soon after Elespuru's birth in Idaho, his Basque parents moved the family to Montana, where his father worked as a farm laborer, cutting hay and raising sheep.

"It was just a frontier town," recalled Elespuru, thinking back 50 years to his youth on the outskirts of Great Falls, Montana. "I remember listening to the radio in the living room with my dad and brother. We'd huddle very close to hear the fights that were held in places like New York. When I was a kid, you either got into a fight or ran away from one. My parents bought two pairs of gloves, and when my brother and I would get into a squabble, my dad would bring out the gloves and tell us to put them on."



Elespuru raises the hand of cruiserweight champ Carlos DeLeon.

Almost 30 years ago, Elespuru was at a pro fight card in Sacramento when a referee failed to show up. An official from the athletic commission approached Elespuru and offered him the job. Born of desperation, it was certainly a wise choice. Urged on by friends, he was given a quick medical exam and a brief test regarding the state boxing rules.

"I was a nervous wreck," he remembered.

While the ensuing years have brought Elespuru many wonderful memories, there have also been a few heartbreaks. Last year he worked a California lightweight title fight between Rico Velasquez and David Gonzales. It was a one-sided contest, with the talented Gonzales in control. In the seventh round, Velasquez took a right to the head and dropped to his knees. Elespuru remembers every detail.

"The bell rang just after Velasquez got to his feet. I followed him to his corner and called the doctor. It wasn't a hard knockdown, but he'd been losing. Then, I went back to his corner and told them I was going to stop the fight if he took anymore punishment.

"He came out strong in the next round, putting pressure on me," recalled Gonzales. "But he looked tired. There wasn't much snap on his punches."

A moment later, Velasquez got hit for the last time in his life. He bent over and Elespuru stopped the fight.

Holding the stricken fighter by the arm, Elespuru started to walk him to his corner.

"The crowd was booing and I felt Velasquez pulling away from me," recalled Elespuru. "I turned my head and saw him crumble to the canvas."

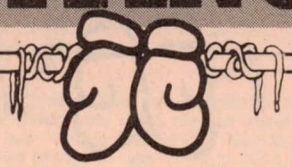
Velasquez went into a coma and was rushed to a hsopital. Elespuru was stunned. He met the boxer's parents at the hospital and urged them to have Rico's younger brother, also a pro fighter, leave the sport. A few days later, Rico Velasquez died.

Through the years, Elespuru has learned to accept the bad with the good and still keep a positive outlook.

"I can't say that every fight I've seen has thrilled me; not every fight is magic," Elespuru said, almost apologetically. "Sometimes I get bored. Sometimes I want to coach the fighters.

"But what really makes it for me is when I see two men in the ring with ability, just about equal ability, and they're performing to their best. Every time I see that, I fall in love with boxing again." □

WBC WBA IBF RATINGS



HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Mike Tyson (USA)	C	C	C
Evander Holyfield (USA)	1	1	1
Razor Ruddock (USA)	2	4	5
James Douglas (USA)	3	5	2
Michael Dokes (USA)	4	-	6
Frank Bruno (ENG)	5	7	7
Orlin Norris (USA)	6	6	4
Renaldo Snipes (USA)	7	10	8
Carl Williams (USA)	8	-	3
Adilson Rodrigues (BRA)	9	9	-
Jose Ribalta (USA)	10	3	9
Alex Stewart (USA)	13	2	10
Gary Mason (ENG)	11	8	11

CRUISERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Carlos DeLeon (PR)	C	-	-
Dwight Muhammad Qawi (USA)	1	5	2
Robert Daniels (USA)	2	1	-
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	3	8	9
Jose Flores (URU)	4	-	12
Magne Haavna (NOR)	5	-	-
Olian Alexander (USA)	6	-	-
Nate Miller (USA)	7	3	5
Daniel Netto (ARG)	8	10	-
Bash Ali (NIG)	9	-	-
Sammy Reeson (ENG)	10	9	-
Glenn McCrory (ENG)	-	-	C
Taoufik Balbouli (MAUR)	-	2	-
Jeff Lampkin (USA)	-	4	1
Craig Bodzianowski (USA)	19	6	7
Angelo Rottoli (ITA)	-	7	4
Patrick Lumumba (KEN)	26	-	3
Leroy Murphy (USA)	24	-	6
Ralf Rocchigiani (GER)	11	11	8
Siza Makhathini (SA)	-	-	10

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	C	-	-
Tom Collins (ENG)	1	2	10
Dennis Andries (ENG)	2	9	-
Guy Waters (AUSTRL)	3	11	6
James Kinchen (USA)	4	8	1
Mike Sedillo (USA)	5	3	7
Joe Lasisi (NIG)	6	6	4
Leslie Stewart (TRI)	7	-	-
Mario Melo (ARG)	8	12	-
Bobby Czyz (USA)	9	-	-
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	10	-	-
Virgil Hill (USA)	-	C	-
Jan Lefeber (HOL)	19	1	12
Uriah Grant (JAM)	13	4	11
Jean-Marie Emebe (FRA)	16	5	-
Alex Blanchard (HOL)	-	7	5
Tony Willis (USA)	12	10	8
Charles Williams (USA)	-	-	C
Rodrigo Benech (URU)	21	-	2
Frankie Swindell (USA)	-	-	3
Freddie Delgado (PR)	-	-	9

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ray Leonard (USA)	C	-	-
Thomas Hearns (USA)	1	-	-
Chris Tiozzo (FRA)	2	1	3
Dario Matteoni (ARG)	3	-	-
Don Lee (USA)	4	12	-
Frank Tate (USA)	5	7	2
Tony Byrd (USA)	6	6	-
Tarmo Uusivirta (FIN)	7	2	7
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	8	-	-
Paul Muyodi (UGA)	9	-	-
Carlos Antunes (BRA)	10	-	11
Inchul Baek (KOR)	-	C	-
Ron Esset (USA)	11	3	4
Victor Cordova (PAN)	-	4	5
Fulgencio Obelmejias (VEN)	12	5	-
Paul Whittaker (USA)	-	8	-
Juan Carlos Gimenez (PAR)	-	9	9
Danny Morgan (USA)	25	10	-
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	-	-	C
Lindell Holmes (USA)	-	-	1
Thulani Malingo (USA)	-	-	6
Vincent Boulware (USA)	21	-	8
Rod Carr (AUSTRL)	20	-	10

MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Roberto Duran (PAN)	C	-	-
Lindell Holmes (USA)	1	2	-
Julian Jackson (USA)	2	-	-
Michael Watson (ENG)	3	1	1
Michael Olajide (CAN)	4	11	-
Herol Graham (ENG)	5	3	3
Steve Collins (USA)	6	9	6
Dwight Davison (USA)	7	-	-
Sumbu Kalambay (ITA)	8	4	7
Nigel Benn (ENG)	9	7	8
Iran Barkley (USA)	10	5	5
Mike McCallum (JAM)	-	C	-
Tony Thornton (USA)	17	6	-
Nonuyuki Tabata (JAP)	-	8	-
Frank Winterstein (FRA)	11	10	10
Michael Nunn (USA)	-	-	C
Matthew Hilton (CAN)	-	-	2
Reginald Johnson (USA)	-	-	4
Ron Collins (USA)	23	-	9

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
John Mugabi (UGA)	C	-	-
Rene Jacquot (FRA)	1	7	-
Chris Pyatt (ENG)	2	3	5
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	3	-	1
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	4	4	-
Lorenzo Garcia (ARG)	5	11	-
Tomas Perez (USA)	6	-	-
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	7	8	2
Terry Norris (USA)	8	6	-
Jorge Castro (ARG)	9	-	-
Jun Suk Hwang (KOR)	10	2	-
Julian Jackson (VI)	-	C	-
Carlos Elliot (JAP)	13	1	10
Donald Curry (USA)	-	5	4
Horacio Perez (COL)	22	9	-
Gilbert Dele (FRA)	25	10	-
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	-	-	C
Robert Hines (USA)	-	-	3
Arthur Serwano (USA)	20	12	6
Miguel Arroyo (ARG)	11	-	7
Davey Hilton (CAN)	-	-	8
Karama Leota (USA)	-	-	9

WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Marlon Starling (USA)	C	-	-
Yungkil Chung (KOR)	1	7	-
Maurice Blocker (USA)	2	3	-
Lloyd Honeyghan (ENG)	3	-	4
Fujio Ozaki (JAP)	4	1	-
Aaron Davis (USA)	5	10	5
Tyrone Trice (USA)	6	6	1
Nino LaRocca (ITA)	7	-	7
James McGirt (USA)	8	-	2
Glenwood Brown (USA)	9	4	9
Antoine Fernandez (FRA)	10	-	12
Mark Breland (USA)	-	C	-
Simon Brown (USA)	-	-	C
Luis Garcia (VEN)	11	2	-
Manning Galloway (USA)	22	5	3
Engels Pedroza (VEN)	23	8	-
Jorge Bracamonte (ARG)	18	9	-
Vincent Pettway (USA)	24	-	6
Bobby Joe Young (USA)	-	-	8
Derrick Rolon (USA)	27	-	10

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	-	-
Kyungduk Ahn (KOR)	1	2	-
Roger Mayweather (USA)	2	-	-
Mauricio Rodriguez (USA)	3	10	10
Frankie Randall (USA)	4	-	4
Sammy Fuentes (PR)	5	-	9
Alberto Cortes (ARG)	6	-	-
Rafael Pineda (COL)	7	9	5
Angel Hernandez (PR)	8	-	8
Loreto Garza (USA)	9	-	3
Donald Caples (USA)	10	-	-
Juan M. Coggi (ARG)	-	C	-
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	-	-	C
Rodolfo Aguilar (PAN)	17	1	12
Akinobu Hiranaka (JAP)	13	3	-
Mike Johnson (USA)	11	4	-
Vinnie Pazienza (USA)	16	5	6
Joey Rivera (PR)	-	6	-
Harold Brazier (USA)	14	7	-
Frankie Warren (USA)	-	8	-
Courtney Hooper (USA)	-	-	1
Livingstone Bramble (USA)	12	-	2
John Montes (USA)	19	-	7

LIGHTWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	-	C
Chilsong Chun (KOR)	1	6	-
Primo Ramos (MEX)	2	-	9
Iwao Otomo (JAP)	3	-	-
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	4	-	1
Jose Luis Ramirez (MEX)	5	2	-
Poli Diaz (SPA)	6	-	7
Rolando Navarette (PHIL)	7	10	5
Greg Haugen (USA)	8	-	2
David Gonzales (USA)	9	3	-
Darryl Tyson (USA)	10	-	-
Edwin Rosario (PR)	-	C	-
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	-	1	-
Juan Nazario (PR)	17	5	-
John Duplessis (USA)	12	7	3
Anthony Jones (USA)	14	8	-
Louie Lomeli (USA)	-	9	6
Tracy Spann (USA)	13	-	4
Tunde Foster (USA)	21	-	8
Alberto Cortes (ARG)	-	4	10

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	-	-
Tyrone Downes (TRIN)	1	-	-
Mario Martinez (MEX)	2	7	-
Jim McDonnell (ENG)	3	2	5
John Sichula (ZAM)	4	-	-
Lupe Suarez (USA)	5	4	8
Bernard Taylor (USA)	6	-	-
Floyd Havard (ENG)	7	5	-
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	8	3	9
Rocky Lockridge (USA)	9	10	4
Kenny Baysmore (USA)	10	-	-
Brian Mitchell (SA)	-	C	-
Tony Lopez (USA)	-	-	C
Jackie Beard (USA)	20	1	-
Hector Lopez (MEX)	-	6	-
Tyrone Jackson (USA)	12	8	10
Irving Mitchell (USA)	-	9	-
John Molina (PR)	-	-	1
Calvin Grove (USA)	-	-	2
Jose Cortez (COL)	28	-	3
Coco Ramirez (MEX)	-	-	6
Renato Cornett (AUSTR)	21	-	7

FEATHERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL)	C	-	-
Hector Lopez (MEX)	1	-	-
Marcos Villasana (MEX)	2	10	-
Lupe Gutierrez (USA)	3	3	2
Chanmok Park (KOR)	4	1	-
Paul Hodkinson (ENG)	5	6	3
Rafael Zuniga (COL)	6	9	-
Calvin Grove (USA)	7	-	-
Stevie Cruz (USA)	8	-	5
Jeff Franklin (USA)	9	-	-
Troy Dorsey (USA)	10	-	6
Antonio Esparragoza (VEN)	-	C	-
Jorge Paez (MEX)	-	-	C
Louie Espinoza (USA)	-	2	1
Ryutaro Ueda (JAP)	26	4	-
Jean-Mark Renard (BELG)	16	5	-

WBC as of August
WBA as of July
IBF as of September

Eloy Rojas (VEN)	30	7	-
Tyrone Downes (TRIN)	-	8	-
Myron Taylor (USA)	22	-	4
Jose Lopez (ARG)	21	-	7
Harold Rhodes (USA)	17	-	8
Steve McCrory (USA)	-	-	9
Tracy Patterson (USA)	-	-	10

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	C	-	-
Seung Hoon Lee (KOR)	1	-	-
Steve McCrory (USA)	2	-	-
Pedro Decima (ARG)	3	5	9
Jesus Salud (USA)	4	9	3
Naoto Takahashi (JAP)	5	3	7
Paul Banke (USA)	6	4	-
Loris Stecca (ITA)	7	-	-
Louie Espinoza (USA)	8	-	-
Frankie Duarte (USA)	9	-	-
Chanyoung Park (KOR)	10	10	-
Juan Jose Estrada (MEX)	-	C	-
Fabrice Benichou (FRA)	-	-	C
Jose Sanabria (VEN)	-	1	2
Luis Mendoza (COL)	12	2	-
Ruben Palacios (COL)	23	6	-
Miguel Lora (COL)	-	7	-
Carlos Uribe (CHIL)	17	8	-
Ramon Cruz (PR)	-	-	1
Hurley Snead (USA)	-	-	4
Kelvin Seabrooks (USA)	-	-	5
Jesse Benavides (USA)	13	-	6
Wilson Fontalvo (COL)	-	-	8
Fransie Badenhorst (SA)	-	-	10

BANTAMWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Raul Perez (MEX)	C	-	-
Cardenio Ulloa (CHI)	1	1	1
Hurley Snead (USA)	2	2	-
Changkyun Oh (KOR)	3	-	-
Gerardo Martinez (USA)	4	8	10
Pepillo Valdez (MEX)	5	6	2
Luisito Espinosa (PHI)	6	9	3
Diego Avila (MEX)	7	-	-
Changuito Carmona (MEX)	8	-	-
Greg Richardson (USA)	9	-	-
Gaby Canizales (USA)	10	7	-
Kaokor Galaxy (THAI)	-	C	-
Edgar Monserrat (PAN)	15	3	-
Chun Huh (KOR)	-	4	-
Kiyoshi Hatanaka (JAP)	-	5	-
Cesar Salas (VEN)	-	10	-
Yun Chun Min (KOR)	13	-	4
Frankie Duarte (USA)	-	-	5
Eddie Rangel (USA)	-	-	6
Billy Hardy (ENG)	25	-	7
Ray Minus (BAH)	-	-	8
Alessandro DeSantis (ITA)	-	-	9

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Gilberto Roman (MEX)	C	-	-
Santos Laciar (ARG)	1	3	-
Thanomsak Sithbaobey (THAI)	2	1	-
Shunichi Nakajima (JAP)	3	4	-
Juan Carazo (PR)	4	7	-
Adrian Roman (ARG)	5	5	7
Kiyoshi Hatanaka (JAP)	6	-	-
Sungkil Moon (KOR)	7	2	-
Ray Medel (USA)	8	11	5
Jose Felix Montiel (MEX)	9	-	8
Cesar Polanco (DR)	10	-	-
Khaosai Galaxy (THAI)	-	C	-
Kenji Matsumura (JAP)	-	6	-
Ernesto Ford (PAN)	17	8	-
Cobra Ari Blanca (PHIL)	14	9	3
Pedro Romero (PAN)	-	10	-
Juan Polo (COL)	12	-	1
Elly Pical (INDO)	-	-	C
Welcome Ncita (SA)	-	-	2
Rolando Bohol (PHIL)	11	12	4
Peter Mitrevski (AUSTRL)	-	-	6
Carlos Mercado (COL)	22	-	9
Mike Phelps (USA)	-	-	10

FLYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Sot Chitalada (THAI)	C	-	-
Richard Clarke (JAM)	1	12	4
Yongkang Kim (KOR)	2	4	-
Yulwoo Lee (KOR)	3	5	-
Javier Lucas (MEX)	4	1	7
Leopard Tamakuma (JAP)	5	2	-
Claudemir Dias (BRA)	6	-	-
Armando Velasco (MEX)	7	11	11
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	8	9	-
Eyup Can (TURK)	9	-	10
Romy Navarette (PHIL)	10	-	12
Fidel Bassa (ARG)	-	C	-
Emil Matsushima (JAP)	21	3	-
Angel Rosario (PR)	18	6	-
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	11	7	3
Julio Gudino (PAN)	28	8	-
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	-	10	-
Dodi Penalosa (PHIL)	12	-	1
Dave McAuley (IRE)	-	-	C
Duke McKenzie (ENG)	-	-	2
Louis Curtis (USA)	-	-	5
Daorung Chuwatana (THAI)	-	-	6
Tony DeLuca (USA)	-	-	8
Den Chuvatana (THAI)	-	-	9

LIGHT FLYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	-	-
Jungkoo Chang (KOR)	1	-	-
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	2	2	1
Den Chuvatana (THAI)	3	3	-
Luis Monzote (USA)	4	9	-
Ebo Danquah (GHA)	5	-	3
Soonjoon Kang (KOR)	6	-	-
Isaias Zamudio (MEX)	7	-	-
Rey Hernandez (MEX)	8	-	-
Ali Galvez (CHI)	9	-	-
Sunyong Chang (KOR)	10	-	-
Myung Woo Yuh (KOR)	-	C	-
Leo Gamez (VEN)	-	1	-
Leon Salazar (PAN)	13	4	8
Max Forrosuelo (PHIL)	26	5	-
Yunun Chin (KOR)	-	6	-
Kajkong Danphoothai (THAI)	30	7	-
Sayama Susumu (JAP)	-	8	-
Katzumi Komiyama (JAP)	12	10	-
Muangshai Kittikasem (THAI)	-	-	C
Tacy Macalos (PHIL)	19	-	2
Isidro Perez (MEX)	11	-	4
Silverio Barcenas (PAN)	-	-	5
Javier Diaz (MEX)	-	-	6
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	21	-	7
Mario DeMarco (ARG)	-	-	9
Hideyuki Ohashi (JAP)	-	-	10

STRAWWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Napa Katwanchai (THAI)	C	-	-
Kyung Yung Lee (KOR)	1	10	-
Pretty Boy Lucas (PHIL)	2	3	2
Javier Varguez (MEX)	3	-	4
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	4	-	9
Hector Patri (ARG)	5	-	10
Hiyong Choi (KOR)	6	7	-
John Arief (INDO)	7	6	6
Jeum Hwan Choi (KOR)	8	-	-
Hideyuki Ohashi (JAP)	9	2	-
Samjoong Lee (KOR)	10	1	-
Bong Jun Kim (KOR)	-	C	-
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	13	4	8
Jusub Shin (KOR)	-	5	-
Danny Nunez (DR)	29	8	-
Silverio Barcenas (PAN)	-	9	-
Nico Thomas (INDO)	-	-	C
Eric Chavez (PHIL)	16	-	1
Luis Monzote (USA)	-	-	3
Samuth Sithnarvepol (THAI)	-	-	5
Rey Hernandez (MEX)	-	-	7

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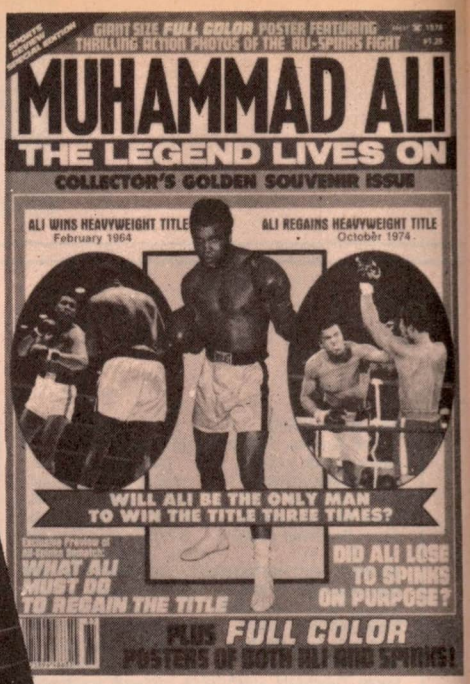

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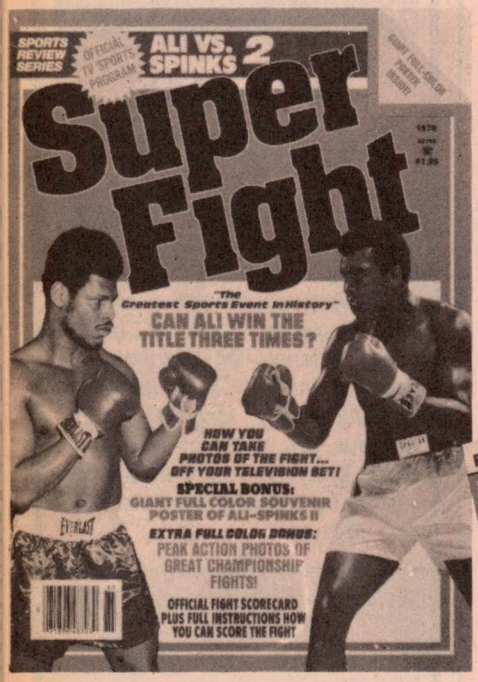

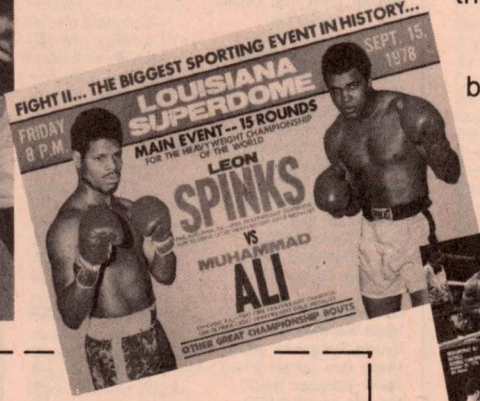

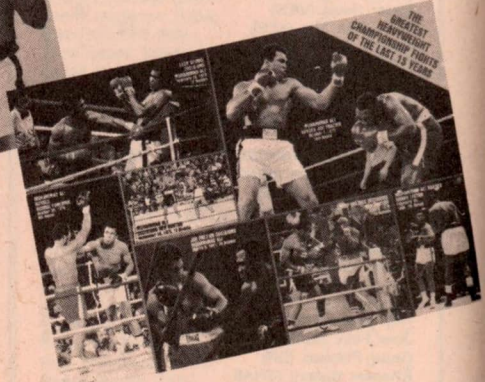

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The RING CLASSICS

(From February 1951 issue)

LaMOTTA-DAUTHUILLE CITED FIGHT OF THE YEAR

Jake's electrifying knockout triumph in final 30 seconds of 15-rounder produced 1950's greatest round

By Daniel M. Daniel

ALTHOUGH 1950 WAS not a particularly exciting year in so far as glittering single combats were concerned, it did produce one of the most thrilling battles of the past decade.

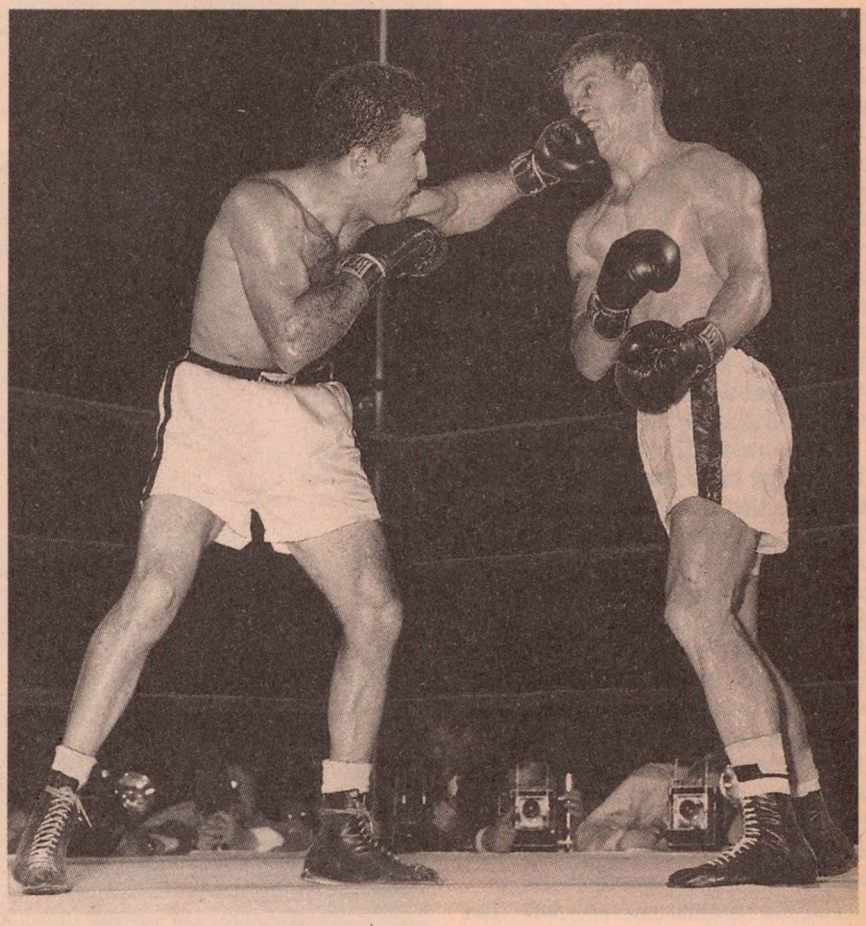
This was the 15-round struggle for the middleweight championship of the world, in which Jake LaMotta, the saturnine slugger from New York, knocked out Laurent Dauthuille, of France, at Detroit on the night of September 13.

The 15-rounder in which Ezzard Charles clinched his right to the heavyweight championship of the world, in Yankee Stadium, by giving Joe Louis a thorough and convincing shellacking, was the most important contest of 1950.

But the LaMotta-Dauthuille affair receives *The Ring* magazine's label of the Fight of the Year. And the 15th session, in which a couple of deadly left hooks to the body did in Dauthuille, was the Round of the Year. For neither designation was there really a close second.

The Charles triumph over Louis was a workmanlike job. Ezzard piled up point after point, as the faded Joe took the trouncing of his career. But at no time did this engagement achieve a really exciting pitch. It was a picture of disintegration of a fighter who once had been rated the greatest of all-time.

The contest in which Willie Pep had to concede the featherweight title to Sandy Saddler, because of a dislocated shoulder, was thrilling in spots. Especially when Pep, allegedly helpless, had to bow out, and Saddler again was the champion. But at no time did this fight approach the drama of the LaMotta triumph over Laurent.



The left hand of middleweight champion Jake LaMotta explodes into the face of France's Laurent Dauthuille at the Olympia Stadium.

Lee Savold's victory over Bruce Woodcock, Rex Layne's upset triumph over Jersey Joe Walcott, and Vic Toweel's success against Manuel Ortiz all had elements of grand theater.

But, after all the other scraps had been analyzed, LaMotta's highlighted achievement stood out with intaglio clarity.

Let it be emphasized again that the Fight of the Year 1950 was for a championship of the world, and that it was an international affair.

Dauthuille entered the ring not without backing. Jake was a strong favorite. But Laurent was supported by a lot of the so-called wise money. "Jake is aging," it was said.

I saw that fight that rainy Wednesday night in Detroit's Olympia. Nat Fleischer and I sat together at the ringside, and with only 30 seconds to go, felt that we had just seen the middleweight title change hands.

Thirty seconds left, and the scorecards of referee Lou Handler, and judges Joe Linehan and Jack Asprey, showed that, barring a knockout, Laurent had emulated Marcel Cerdan and gained the championship.

Into those last 30 seconds was packed some of the most exciting action Fleischer and I have watched in all the years we have been seeing fights.

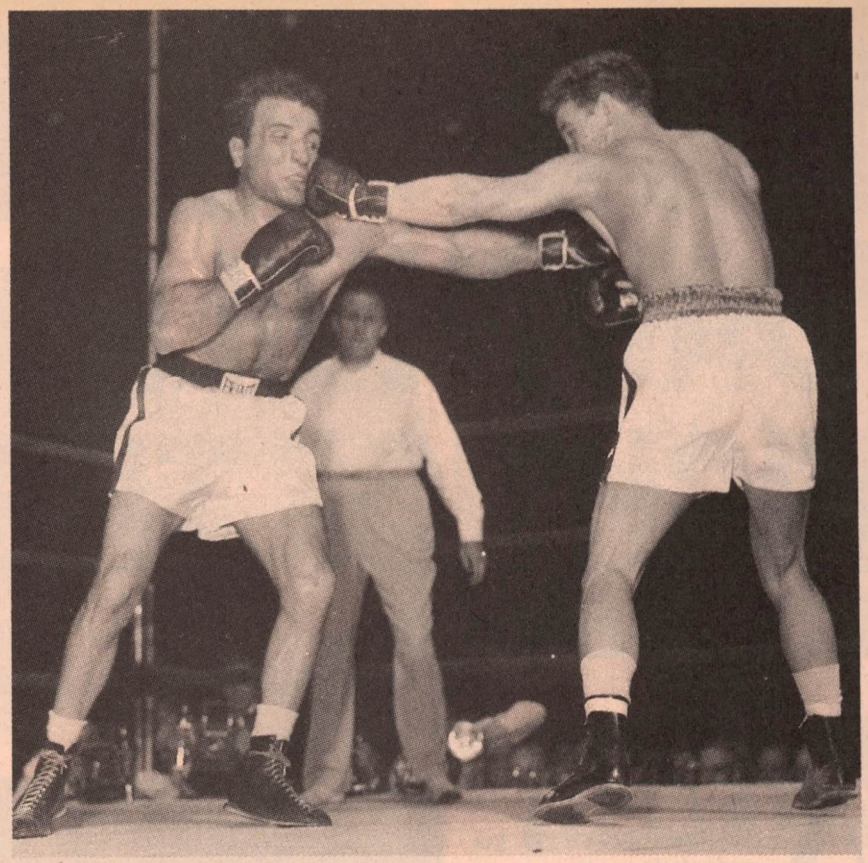
LaMotta had been waging a cagey battle against Dauthuille, whom he had met before. Jake had tried his famous stalling act on the Frenchman, but had failed to get away with it. Dauthuille, younger, stronger, fired with ambition, kept fighting, and piled up the points.

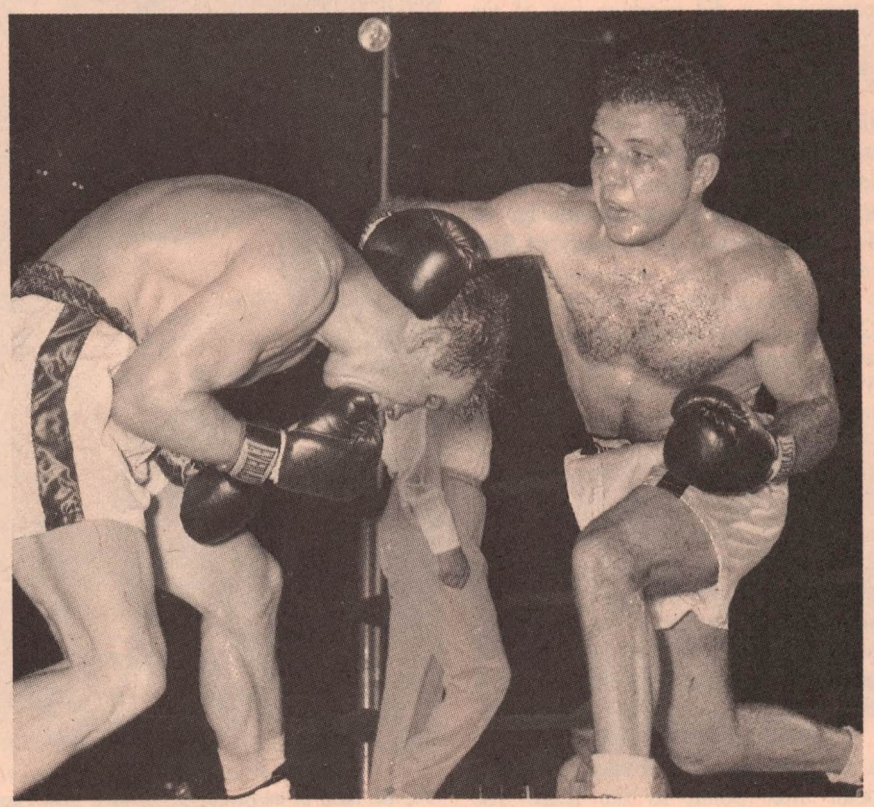
Then, the last 13 seconds. Almost in the blinking of an eye, the fight took a different slant! LaMotta, apparently beaten, suddenly came to life. He lashed out with a terrific left to the body, into which he crammed everything he had in reserve. Almost everything, but not quite.

Lefts and rights, and amazement written all over the face of Dauthuille. Lefts and rights, and then another ripping left to the body. The Frenchman went down. He had been ripped into a corner, and then he had dropped. At the count of 10, Laurent was on one knee. He had been knocked out.

Thirteen seconds to go, and LaMotta, hitherto the beaten, now was the conqueror, still the middleweight champion of the world!

Had Dauthuille been able to rise to his feet before the count of 10, and been able to stall through, he would have become the new titleholder de-



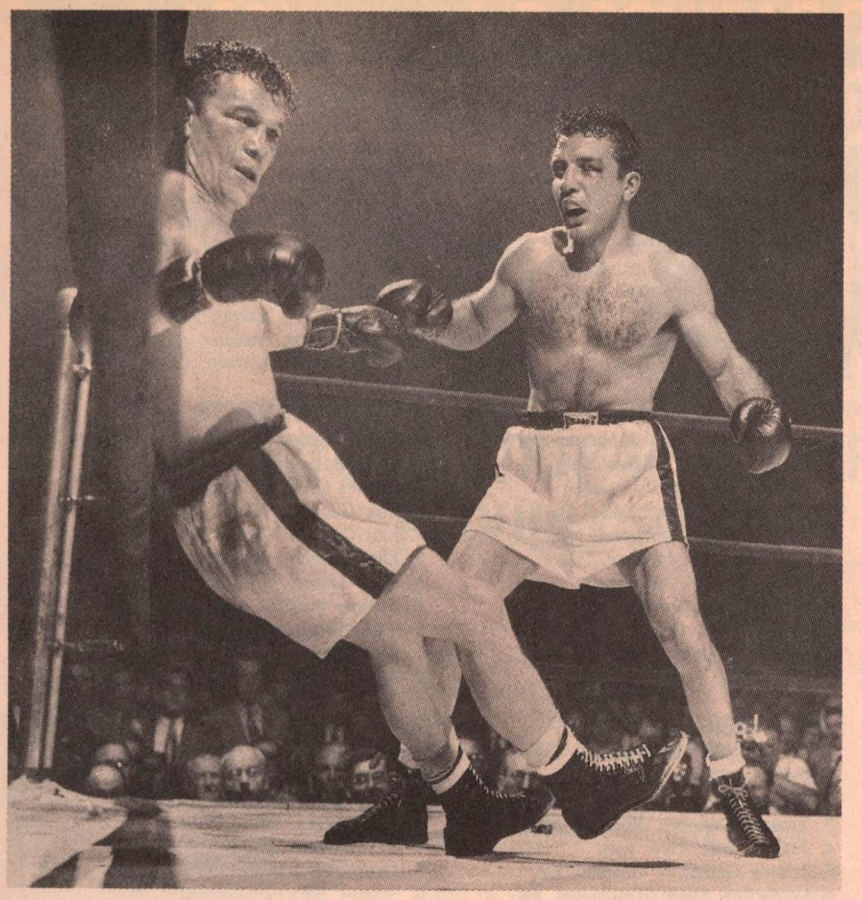


Dauthuille punched often and consistently over the first dozen rounds (above). LaMotta's occasional return volleys (below) did little damage.

spite the tough handling he got in the last 30 seconds. But Dauthuille could not arise. He could not give himself the chance to stall.

Around the ring, the wise men shook their heads, and said, "If the Frenchman had had better handling, if he had loafed through the last round, he would have become champion."

Dauthuille's French second lost his head as the last round started and kept urging his man to cut loose and fight.



LaMotta explodes in the 15th round and Dauthuille falls slowly (above). The jubilant winner after his come-from-behind kayo (below).

It developed that he had labored under the impression that the fight was close and Laurent needed the round.

Hymie Blaustein, Dauthuille's American second, counseled caution, and urged, "Stay and box. Easy, easy. You have the title."

In going after LaMotta, Dauthuille fought the kind of last round most of his cornermen wanted him to fight.

LaMotta's theatrical tactics achieved their crest in the 12th round. After having been struck under the heart with a not-so-hearty right, LaMotta started out to put on his big act.

He leaned against the ropes, staggered, bleary-eyed. That is, he played staggered. Wily Jake knew what he was about.

Dauthuille went after Jake. He gave everything. It is conceivable that this rally had a lot to do with Laurent's spent condition in the 15th round.

Suddenly, LaMotta stopped the stall and tore into the Frenchman with a power that left Laurent in jeopardy. Dauthuille took it and came out of the 12th still in front by the points system.

In the 13th round, LaMotta attempted a return engagement with the stall, but this time Dauthuille refused the bait. Dauthuille merely stuck to his plan, and LaMotta was persuaded to cease the theatrics and fight the fight. It may be that when LaMotta went into his act in the 12th, he really had been hurt. But if he had been injured, he did not take very long to snap out of his trouble.

LaMotta fought the first half of the fight with the supposition that he could outpoint his man. He had lost a 10-round decision to Laurent. But he did not seem to pay much attention to this fact.

LaMotta was a one-to-three favorite over Dauthuille in a fight that drew 11,426 paying customers, who turned $71,694 into the box office.

The battle became the Fight of the Year only after the 11th round. In the first 33 minutes of fighting, Dauthuille kept boring in, taking what Jake had, and piling up points. Jake looked old. He definitely had passed his peak, and there were many moments in which he realized this, poignantly.

It was a bruising fight. Dauthuille's left eye was cut as early as the third round. Jake's left eye was puffed in the eighth. At the close, they made a far from lovely spectacle.

Until those last four rounds, Dauthuille was not without fault. After all, he was up against a tried campaigner. The way I saw the fight, Jake won just four rounds and one was even.

If game fighting, if rally and counter rally, if high drama and power-punching, if the unlooked-for denouement, if the roar of the crowd and the tension of surprise all count in making the Fight of the Year, that LaMotta-Dauthuille affair certainly had more than the requisite quota of ingredients. □

THE RING RATINGS, *February 1951*

Lightweight champ Ike Williams

HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champion: **Ezzard Charles,** Cincinnati

1. **Joe Louis, Detroit**
2. **Lee Savold, Paterson, NJ**
3. **Joey Maxim, Cleveland**
4. **Lee Oma, Detroit**
5. **Bob Baker, Pittsburgh**
6. **Clarence Henry, Los Angeles**
7. **Rex Layne, Lewiston, UT**
8. **Jersey Joe Walcott, Camden, NJ**
9. **Jack Gardner, Marketborough, England**
10. **Rocky Marciano, Brockton, MA**

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champion: **Joey Maxim,** Cleveland

1. **Archie Moore, St. Louis**
2. **Harry Matthews, Seattle**
3. **Bob Murphy, San Diego**
4. **Bob Satterfield, Chicago**
5. **Nick Barone, Syracuse**
6. **Jim Slade, New York City**
7. **Doc Williams, Newark, NJ**
8. **Connie Rux, Berlin, Germany**
9. **Don Cockell, London, England**
10. **Lloyd Marshall, Sacramento**

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

World Champion: **Jake LaMotta,** New York

1. **Ray Robinson, New York**
2. **Laurent Dauthuille, Paris**
3. **Dave Sands, Newcastle, Australia**
4. **Randolph Turpin, London**
5. **Robert Villemain, Paris**
6. **Jimmy Beau, New Canaan, CT**
7. **Eugene Hairston, New York**
8. **Ray Barnes, Detroit**
9. **Walter Cartier, New York**
10. **Art Towne, New York**

WELTERWEIGHTS

World Champion: **Ray Robinson,** New York

1. **George Costner, Philadelphia**
2. **Kid Gavilan, Havana, Cuba**
3. **Billy Graham, New York**
4. **Charley Fusari, Irvington, NJ**
5. **Eddie Thomas, Merthyr, Wales**
6. **Johnny Saxton, New York**
7. **Mickey Tollis, Sydney, Australia**
8. **Lester Felton, Detroit**
9. **Charley Cotton, Toledo, OH**
10. **Joe Miceli, New York**

LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champion: **Ike Williams,** Trenton, NJ

1. **John L. Davis, Oakland, CA**
2. **Freddie Dawson, Chicago**
3. **Tommy Campbell, Rock Island, IL**
4. **James Carter, New York**
5. **Johnny Gonsalves, Oakland, CA**
6. **Sonny Boy West, Washington, DC**
7. **Art Aragon, Los Angeles**
8. **Eddie Chavez, San Jose, CA**
9. **Rudy Cruz, Los Angeles**
10. **Roberto Proietti, Italy**

FEATHERWEIGHTS

World Champion: **Sandy Saddler,** New York

1. **Willie Pep, Hartford, CT**
2. **Ray Famechon, Paris**
3. **Charlie Riley, St. Louis**
4. **Percy Bassett, Philadelphia**
5. **Luis de Santiago, Spain**
6. **Ronnie Clayton, Blackpool, England**
7. **Al Phillips, London**
8. **Jackie Graves, Austin, MN**
9. **Rocky McKay, Panama**
10. **Ciro Morasen, Havana, Cuba**

BANTAMWEIGHTS

World Champion: **Vic Toweel,** South Africa

1. **Louis Romero, Madrid**
2. **Manuel Ortiz, El Centro, CA**
3. **Luis Galvani, Havana, Cuba**
4. **Luis Castillo, Mexico City**
5. **Elley Bennett, Australia**
6. **Peter Keenan, Scotland**
7. **Tommy Proffitt, Ashton, England**
8. **Emile Chemama, France**
9. **Hadi Tijani, Tunis, No. Africa**
10. **Alvaro Nuvoloni, Italy**

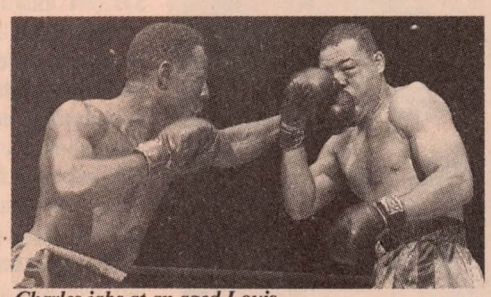
FLYWEIGHTS

World Champion: **Dado Marino,** Honolulu, HI

1. **Jean Sneyers, Belgium**
2. **Terry Allen, Islington, England**
3. **Louis Skena, France**
4. **Vic Herman, Glasgow, Scotland**
5. **Honore Pratesi, France**
6. **Stumpy Butwell, Australia**
7. **Teddy Gardner, West Hartlepool, England**
8. **Black Pico, Havana, Cuba**
9. **Maurice Sandeyron, France**
10. **Bob Scrivano, Tunis, No. Africa**

THE RING, *February 1951*

The Cover: "The Fight of the Year," a painting by Stanley Weston of middleweight champion Jake LaMotta's thrilling 15th-round kayo of French challenger Laurent Dauthuille in Detroit. Dauthuille was clearly ahead on points and seconds away from winning the world title when LaMotta staged one of the most dramatic comebacks in boxing history. Dauthille finally crashed, and "The Raging Bull" retained the crown for the second—and last—time.



Charles jabs at an aged Louis

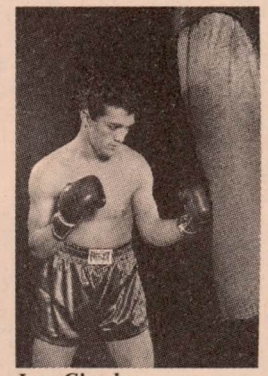
The Fighter of the Year: Heavyweight champion Ezzard Charles is honored for three successful defenses, including a thrashing of former champion Joe Louis.

Robinson takes Stock

Nat Fleischer Says: "Mr. Boxing" writes on Sugar Ray Robinson's kayo over Jean Stock in Paris, as well as the Vic Toweel-Danny O'Sullivan bantamweight title bout.

Mike McTigue

Flowers For McTigue: Light heavyweight Tiger Flowers seemed to outpoint Mike McTigue at Madison Square Garden on December 23, 1925, but the 10-round verdict went to McTigue. In a preliminary, a youngster named Tony Canzoneri scored a sensational kayo.



Joey Giambra

New Faces: Buffalo welterweight Joey Giambra, a 19-year-old undefeated puncher; Long Island featherweight Libby Manzo, a 21-year-old former altar boy with a 26-second kayo at Madison Square Garden among his credits; Brooklyn lightweight Ernie Roberts, a 1949 Golden Gloves champion with an all-star corner, Chickie Ferrara and the Dundee brothers; Bronx lightweight Tony Allegro, a tough Puerto Rican guided by Victor Valle.

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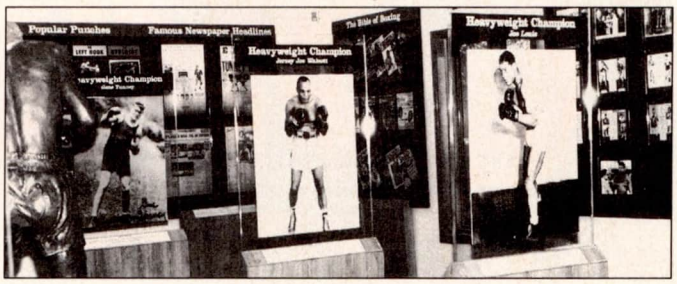

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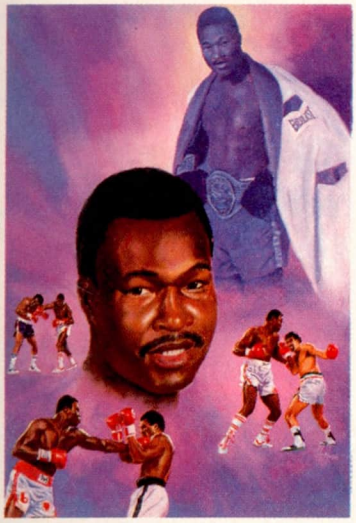

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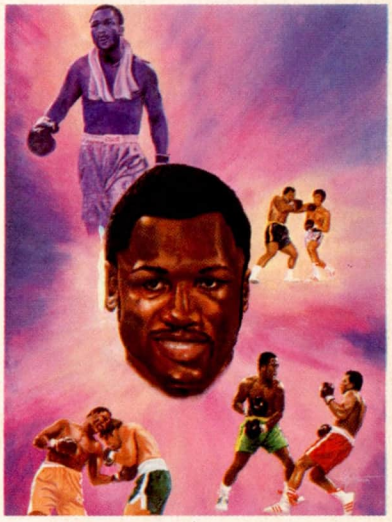

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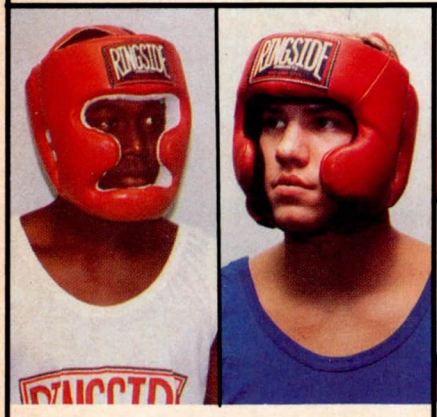

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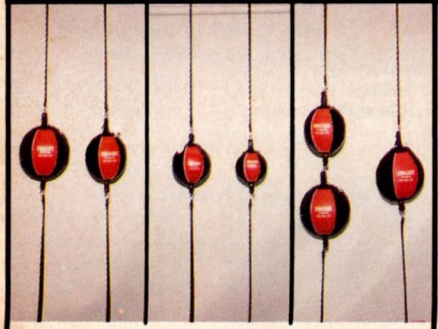

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